November/December 2004 ISSUE

Alternative CENTRAL

A Publication for Central PA's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community.

Profile
Alternative Central Talks to Harvey Fierstein
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EGAL Studies Region's Gay & Lesbian Needs

Equality for Lesbians & Gays (EGAL), a regional effort in conjunction with The Greater Harrisburg Foundation to raise awareness about the gay and lesbian community, recently announced plans to study the feasibility of developing an lgbt community center. Ben Dunlap, Esquire, EGAL chairperson, spoke with *Alternative Central* about the news.

Alternative Central: Why has the idea of an LGBT Community Center recently become visible on the region's radar?

Ben Dunlap: The recent visibility of efforts to create an LGBT Community Center is, like many things in life, the result of many years' work starting to bear fruit. A number of people in the community have been talking off and on for years about creating a community center.

The idea came together in an organized way when EGAL, a project of The Greater Harrisburg Foundation, conducted a needs assessment in 1999 of the local LGBT community. The single need identified across the board by women, minority, youth and other groups and individuals interviewed was a community center.

With money received from FAB and EGAL's own fundraising efforts over the next several years, EGAL set aside $20,000 for development of a professional business.

FAB is a regional lgbt annual fundraising event scheduled this year for Nov. 20 at Strand Capitol, York. The goal was to cause the community to think through exactly who a center would serve, how it could best serve them and how it would be sustained financially.

AC: Why is a business plan important?

BD: I think it is vital that we approach a community center in a business-like manner based upon my past experience. When I lived in Allentown 20 years ago, I was part of a group that formed a community center. But there was no real plan going in, and despite everyone's hard work and good intentions, the center closed within two years. Allentown still does not have a community center to this day.

That experience taught me that in order to survive and fulfill its mission to serve the community, a center must have a good business plan. It also needs at least one paid staff who serves as a "point person", because running a community center is simply too much work to expect of a volunteer.

AC: Who will be putting together the business plan?

BD: For the last year or so, the EGAL committee, which is made up of representatives from the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Common Roads, Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit, the Women's Circle, Positive Opportunities, P-Flag and other groups, has been seeking a consultant to develop a strategic business plan. Through their responses to a request for proposals and a series of interviews, the Dering Consulting Group from Harrisburg was chosen to develop the overall plan, and Rankin and Associates from State College will be doing the data collection. The committee members are very pleased that we were able to find two consultants who really get the idea of a center and who we think can and will develop a good

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Central Sighting – Totem Pole Playhouse – Sponsored by SPRINT, December 3 – 19 see A CHRISTMAS CAROL presented by Caledonia Theatre Company & Totem Pole Playhouse. Discover Christmas magic at Historic Capitol Theatre in Downtown Chambersburg, 159 South Main St. Tickets - 717-352-2164 or 1-888-805-7056.

Proctor & Gamble Supports Gay Civil Rights

Procter & Gamble, makers of Crest toothpaste and Tide detergent, has publicly thrown their support and money behind gay civil rights. Although June Cleaver may be upset, gay activists are thrilled.

P&G recently wrote to their Cincinnati employees urging them to support repeal of that city's law forbidding basic civil rights to the lgbt community. Cincinnati adopted the anti-gay law in 1993. P&G now wants the law repealed and has donated $10,000 toward that goal.

P&G said they "will not tolerate discrimination [against homosexuals] in any form, against anyone, for any reason." To keep homosexuals from being legally married is discrimination for no good reason, which P&G says they will not tolerate.

Sprint Offers Partner Benefits

Starting the New Year right, Sprint Corp. will offer benefits to employees in same-sex domestic partnerships. Human Rights Campaign (HRC) officials earlier this year pojnted out that while Sprint did not provide insurance to domestic partners, it did provide insurance to employee's pets.

"We've been evaluating this for years, but this year, we took a broader look at it," spokesperson Jennifer Bosshardt said. "We have a larger diversity and inclusion strategy. We believe it attracts, retains and motivates employees.

HRC's Kim Mills said, "I think that the pet insurance [data] kind of goosed things along," she said in a quote published by the Kansas City Business Journal.

The benefit offering usually raises a company's costs by 1 percent.

Vartan Supply Donates $5,000
FAB Presents Comedian Georgia Ragsdale Nov. 20

The 9th Annual Fall Achievement Benefit (FAB) returns Saturday, November 20 to the Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center with four fabulous parties, including an "After Hours" Party. Funds raised by the event benefit the local community.

The Strand-Capitol is located on 50 North George Street in York, PA. Tickets are $75 per person for the main event and $135 per person for the VIP reception, the main event and "After Hours" Party. Reservations will be coordinated through FAB hosts or call 717-236-5040 to make reservations. For more information: www.fab-pa.org.

The VIP Reception with Gloria Ragsdale is 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and features a Premium Open Bar and hors d'oeuvres. The main event begins at 7:00 p.m.

Back by popular demand, Accomac Catering will serve an assortment of elegant hors d'oeuvres prepared on site – the rave of last year's event.

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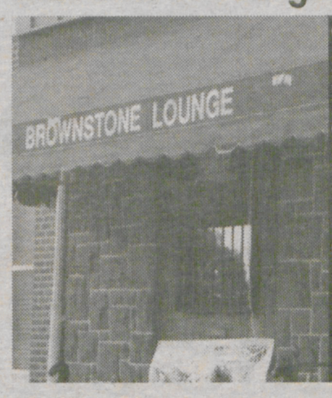
Brownstone Lounge



Central Sighting - Five years running, Brownstone Lounge owner Karen Kane, 412 Forster St., Harrisburg (717-234-7009), has provided a safe and friendly environment for dining, socializing, unwinding. Piano bar virtuoso Little Ricky is known as "Magic Fingers" during his Wed-Fri., 8-10 p.m. "Piano Bar" with Free Buffet. BL offers daily lunch/dinner specials: fresh soups, sandwiches, and platters prepared on site, and personalized catering for groups, private banquets. Daily Happy Hour - 6-8 p.m.; Tues. - Free Darts; Wed. - Free Pool. Thurs. 8 p.m. Trivia with Glenda, prizes. Open M-F 11 a.m.-2 a.m.; Sat.-Sun. - 1p.m.-2 a.m.

Eric Epstein Gets 12 Endorsements, Stonewall Democrats Too

The Capital Region Stonewall Democrats formally endorse Eric Epstein's 15th Senatorial District candidacy against incumbent Pennsylvania Senator Jeff Piccola. In related developments, Bill Cologie joined Epstein's team as full-time campaign manager two months ago. Epstein's web site is http://www.epsteinforsenate.com.

"We have endorsed Eric Epstein because he is committed to fairness for all of the constituents in the 15th District. He will be a great addition to the ranks of the Democratic lawmakers who have supplied most of the votes to stop anti-lgbt legislation in Pennsylvania this year," says Capital Region Stonewall Democrats co-chair Ben Turner.

Epstein dropped by Stallions Entertainment Complex during his campaign for nearly one hour to talk with voters. He appeared there the same night Capital Region Stonewall Democrats staffed voter registration tables at Stallion's and Pink Lizard. Upwards of 15 voters were registered and 95 people to sign letters to their state legislators about pro- and anti-lgbt legislation. "We're planning the same voter registration in York and Lancaster," Turner said.

Incumbent Senator Piccola is no friend to the regions gay community. Renee K. Singer wrote to Epstein

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Aging Gay Men & Lesbians Need Retirement Villages

By the year 2030 as many as 4 to 6 million Americans will be elderly and gay, up from 1 million to 3 million as the 21st century began, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. They'll be

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Aspirant Apprentices

Donald Trump is a very charismatic man, judging by what three Philadelphians had to say recently at Sole Food during an audition for Trump's reality television show, "The Apprentice."

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Holiday Gift Book Ideas

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instinct MAGAZINE
Best Alternative Magazine 2003 & 2004
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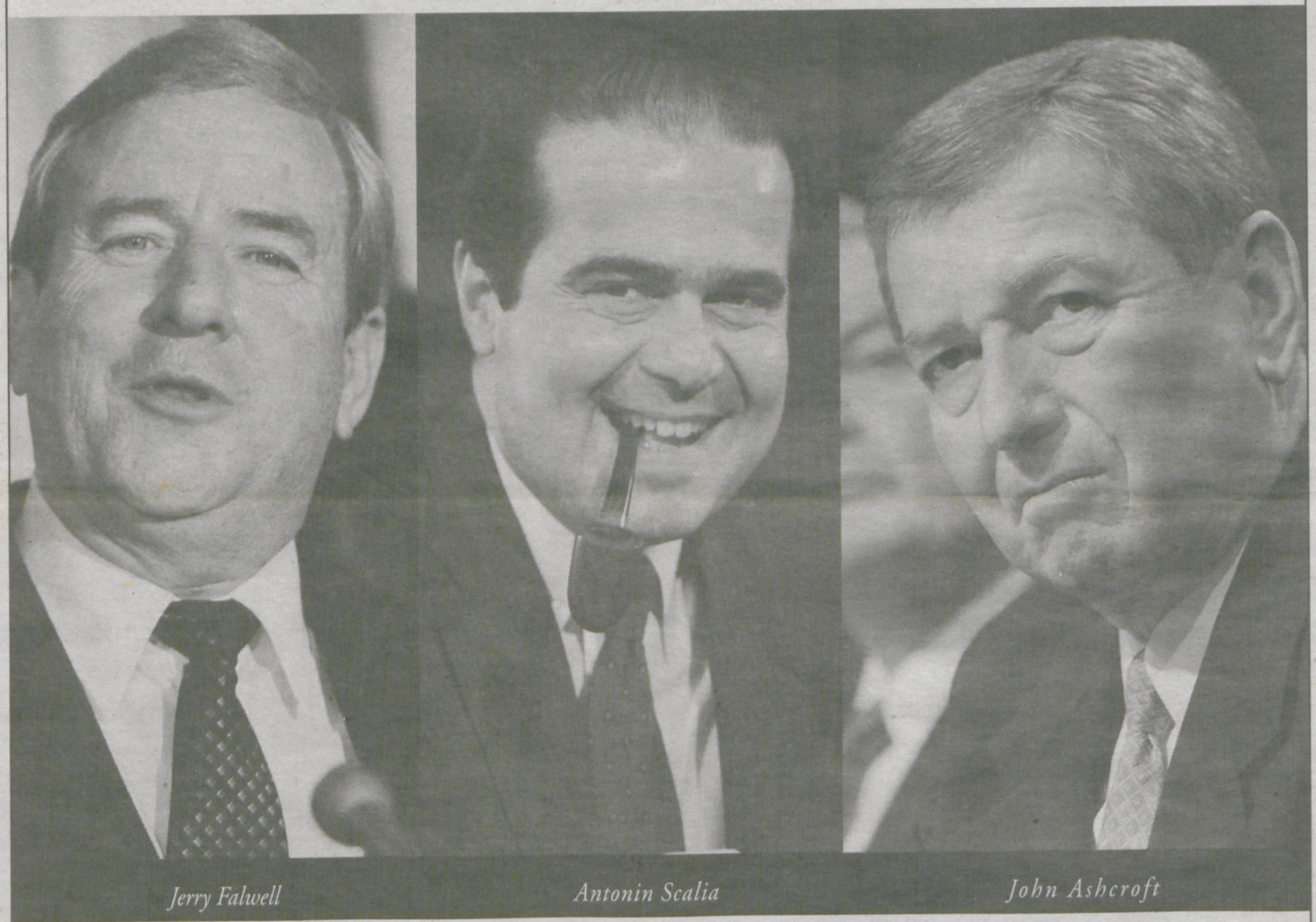
Part 2:
Patricia Nell Warren
Fears Censorship

PAGE 10

Would you take any of these guys home tonight?



Jerry Falwell *Antonin Scalia* *John Ashcroft*

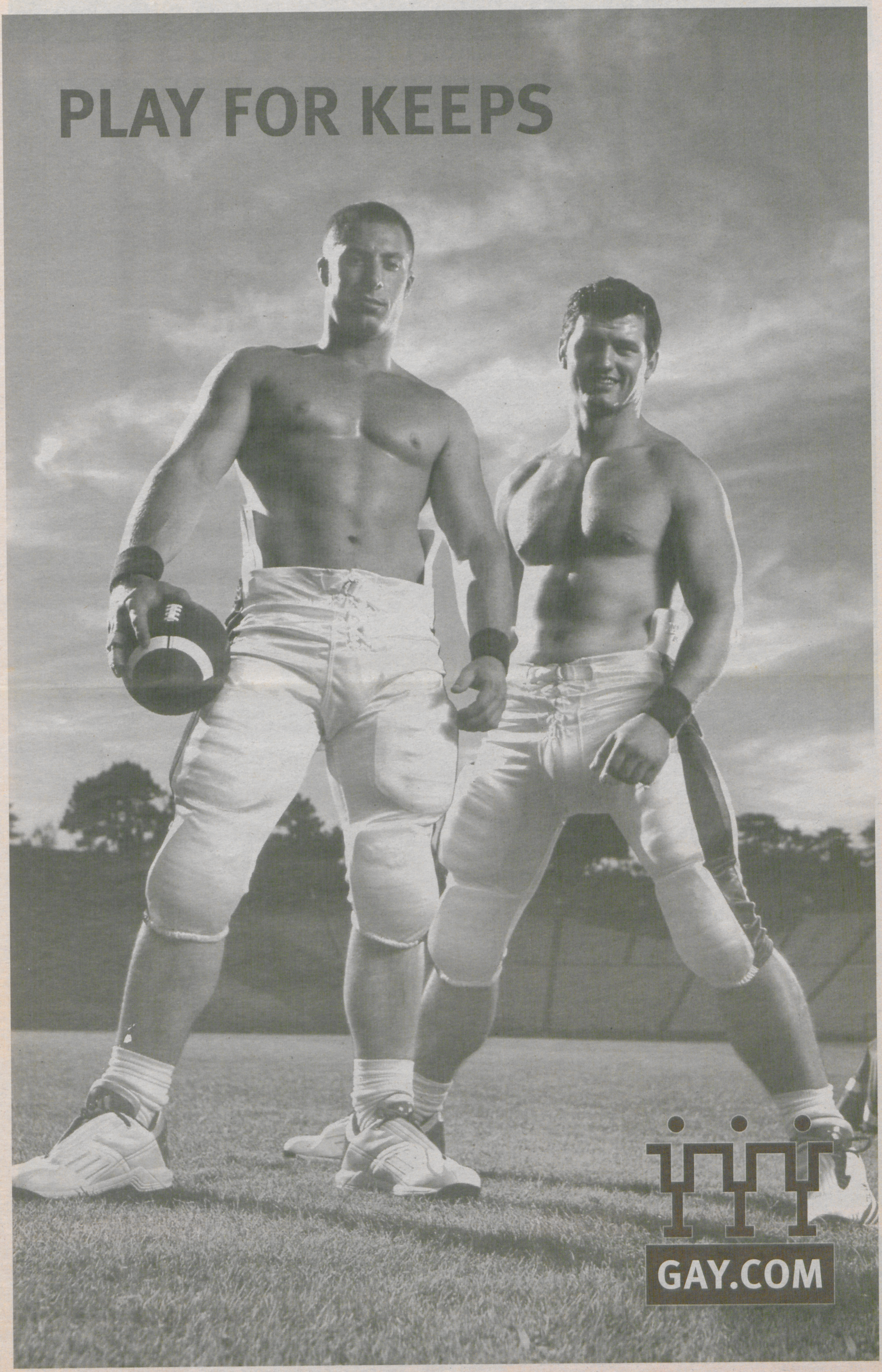
Keep them out of the bedroom.

Vote Democratic on November 2.

To get involved, call 215-732-1173 or send an e-mail to ireland704@cs.com.

Paid for by the Democratic National Committee, www.democrats.org. This communication is not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

PLAY FOR KEEPS



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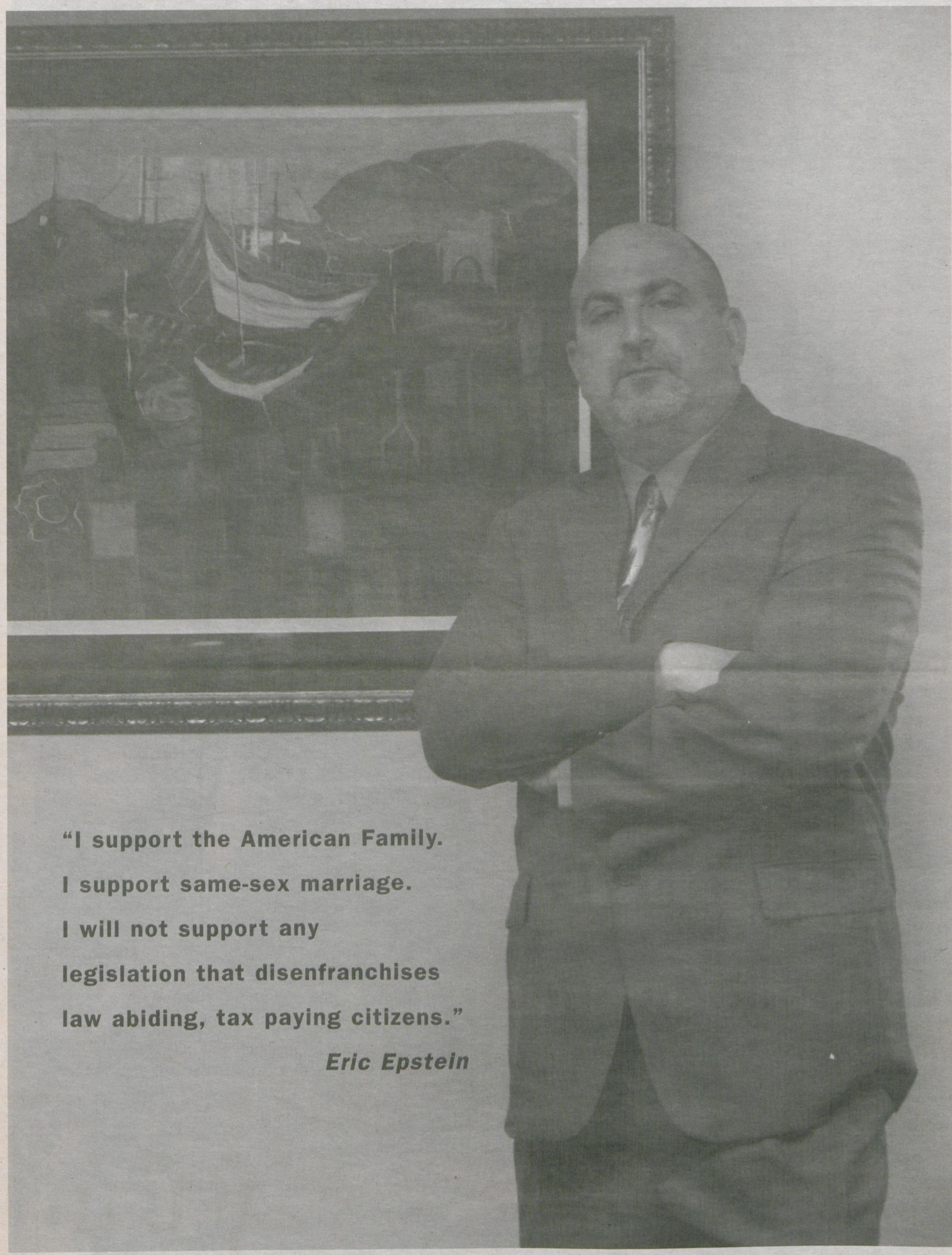

"I support the American Family.
I support same-sex marriage.
I will not support any
legislation that disenfranchises
law abiding, tax paying citizens."

Eric Epstein

Advertisement paid for by:

Epstein for Senate Committee, P.O. Box 669, Harrisburg, PA 17108-0669;
Phone: 717-540-5773; Fax: 717-541-5487; EpsteinForSenate.com

Publisher's Letter

Still a Political Football

Sadly, gay and lesbian taxpayers remain a political football in a game gone dirty. The American Taliban demonizes us. As payback, we "out" self-loathing, closeted queers among their ranks who pass legislation against us or preach that we're evil – and then join boyfriends for dinner.

Under a regime of "taxation without representation", 1 million of the 4 million queer voters cast ballots for George W. Bush in 2000. This round, even Log Cabin Republicans jumped ship, stunned by, but not yet fully cognizant of, their own brand of Stockholm syndrome: If I please my oppressor enough, he'll like me. They learned the hard way: Your oppressor won't like you if you bow down (or curtsy). Your groveling for their approval only invites more abuse.

Hate dies a slow death. African Americans, some of whom are highly insulted we'd make comparisons, waited a century for inclusive legislation passed in 1964/65 to open doors. Significant change took another 40 years to accomplish. The Kingdom does not come with the passage of laws. The Kingdom comes with a change of heart.

In gay circles, we repeat like a mantra that when those against us get to know one of us, they often change their hearts. We become a "person," not a statistic or an artificially impeccable "image" on a silly reality show. Even so, many in our gay ranks are terrified of "coming out."

We fear job loss – an economic sanction reinforced by the omission of laws protecting us in the workplace. Companies thriving in a global market understand that diversity includes gays. There are no "throw away" employees in today's world.

In Pennsylvania, we have a cabal of General Assembly members who mistakenly think that the entire state agrees with their medieval thoughts on gay civil rights – and on economic development. They're wrong. Still, they are systematically destroying the Commonwealth. Of all 50 states, we've lost the most 18-35 year-old residents, according to the US Census. Certainly, their cement-head attitudes about queers aren't the only reason, but it is legitimately part of the reason.

Our elected officials' stubbornness reflects a typical central Pennsylvania syndrome: If I can't steal it, benefit from it, or rig it to my advantage, I'll destroy it rather than change. Think "passive-aggressive" with power. Think schoolyard bully.

With formation of two new Stonewall Democrat organizations, one in Harrisburg and one in Pittsburgh, joining Philadelphia's existing group, we can finally pump some muscle into the gay vote. If you aren't registered to vote on November 2, then you've given up your right to complain. If you are registered and don't vote, what else has to happen before you act? Change is our responsibility to create.

Frank Pizzoli
Publisher & Editor

Alternative CENTRAL

Central to your life.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,
After one ad in your newspaper, I had eight inquiries into my new business!
Way to go!
Charlie Smith,
CS Digital Photography Studio

Dear Editor,
Thanks for the papers! Wow! Harrisburg needed a publication like this, and it is great.
From a reader,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Dear Editor,
Thank you for giving us such a great publication to read, enjoy, and stay informed.
Warmest Regards,
Michael Reed

Dear Editor,
I had the pleasure of picking up a copy of *Alternative Central* at Isaac's in York. I was impressed by the content and the quality of the paper. I especially enjoyed your letter - the part about the "tediously normal" folks that we are. I read the entire paper last night, which is good because I don't even read the daily that closely.
Christa Shoreman
Lancaster

Dear Editor,
Is pride a rainbow in a big tent or a freak show? I am post-operative transsexual who transitioned over a decade ago. I went to Pride and found rampant prejudice of the "he"-is-still-a-"man" sort.
One of the more laughable occurred when I exited: some ladies were passing out flyers to a womyn's

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News page

Where was I?

Kerry Performs Gay Swift Boat Weddings

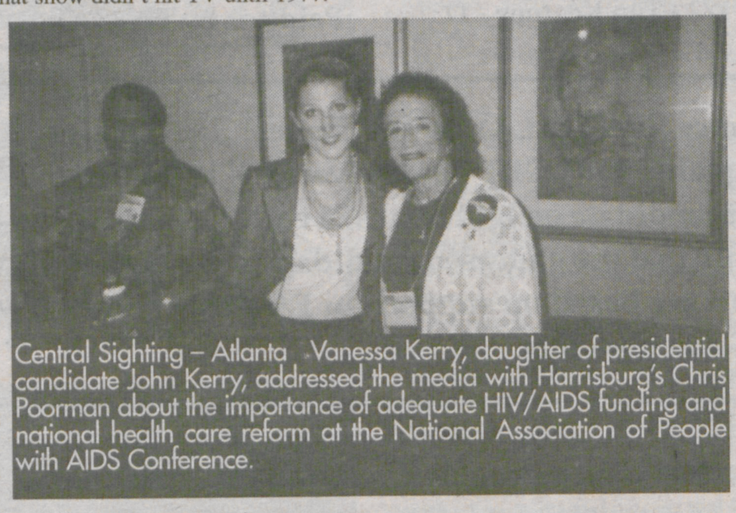
By Sophonda Cox

Prompting 1 million Anti-Kerry Boat Mates to march on Washington, Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry blasted an "attack" ad in which swift boat veterans accused him of performing hundreds of gay weddings on the boat he commanded during the Viet Nam conflict.

The ad, financed by a group calling itself Swift Boat Veterans For Truth about Gay Weddings On Swift Boats, accused Kerry of using his status as commanding officer on his boat to perform gay weddings on an almost non-stop basis.

According to one veteran appearing in the ad, Kerry stunned his boat mates by announcing, "I hereby declare this swift boat "The Love Boat." The veteran also accuses Kerry of performing hundreds of gay weddings "whether or not the sailors wanted to marry each other."

Kerry came out swinging against the ads, telling an audience, "It would have been impossible for me to declare my swift boat 'The Love Boat' because that show didn't hit TV until 1977."



Central Sighting – Atlanta Vanessa Kerry, daughter of presidential candidate John Kerry, addressed the media with Harrisburg's Chris Poorman about the importance of adequate HIV/AIDS funding and national health care reform at the National Association of People with AIDS Conference.

"Out" Gays Serve with Distinction In Iraq

When gay and lesbian soldiers are "out," the military experiences "greater success in bonding, morale, professional advancement, levels of commitment and retention and access to essential support services." So says a report by the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military released by the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Dr. Nathaniel Frank authored the study entitled "Gays and Lesbians at War: Military Service in Iraq and Afghanistan Under 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'"

The study also found that DADT has a negative effect not just on gays, but on everyone around them, by creating an atmosphere of dishonesty and distrust. Most importantly, the study concludes that gays and lesbians are serving openly in the Middle East without undermining unit cohesion or the missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Essentially, the study says that the official ban on open gays in the military impairs the capacity of gay troops to develop bonds of trust, minimize stress, prepare for deployment, focus on their mission, advance professionally and access support services, including medical and psychological consultations.

The study is based on thirty in-depth interviews with gay, lesbian and bisexual service members who were deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since Oct 7, 2001, as well as on field observations made stateside.

Headlines You'd Love to Read

NJ DOT Declares Rear-end Accidents "A McGreevey"

Barbara Hafer Defeats Rick Santorum

Ban cost Cincinnati $46 million

Gay Marriage Ban Harms Economy Mayors Say

Ohio's big-city mayors want to defeat an anti-gay marriage amendment on their Nov. 2 ballot. They think it's detrimental to the state's economy. "This isn't about marriage," Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman said. "It's about the economic future of Ohio."

In addition to banning gay marriage, the proposal seeks to bar any type of civil unions or the legal privileges of marriage to any unmarried couple. The state already has a law banning gay marriage.

Coleman warned that passage of the measure would harm the state's already weak economy by sending the message that Ohio is an intolerant place to do business.

Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell agreed that the state has other priorities. "We shouldn't be focused on dividing and distracting," she said.

Coleman pointed to Cincinnati, the country's only major city that bans the passage of laws protecting gays and lesbians, as an example. The 10-year-old amendment to the city charter has cost Cincinnati at least $46 million in potential convention business, said Julie Harrison Calvert, spokeswoman for the Greater Cincinnati Convention and Visitors Bureau.

More than a dozen companies that had considered Cincinnati, or already booked its convention center, pointed to the anti-gay measure as the reason for going elsewhere.

Is This Self Loathing or What?

Remember Phyllis Schlafly, longtime opponent of gay civil rights? Who

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PA-GALA

THE PENNSYLVANIA GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE

Vote - Tuesday - November 2nd

TAKE THIS LIST INTO THE VOTING BOOTH!

John Kerry, President
John Edwards, Vice-President

Joe Hoeffel
U.S. Senate

Jim Eisenhower
Attorney General

Jack Wagner
Auditor General

Bob Casey
PA Treasurer

Additional information on candidates voting records and legislative issues can be found at www.pa-gala.org.

US CONGRESS

1 - Bob Brady - D
2 - Chaka Fattah - D
3 - Steven Porter - D
7 - Paul Scoles - D
8 -Virginia Schrader - D
9 - Paul I. Politis - D
11 - Paul Kanjorski - D
13 - Allyson Schwartz - D
14 - Mike Doyle - D
15 - Joe Driscoll - D
16 - Lois Herr - D

PENNSYLVANIA SENATE

1 - Vincent Fumo - D
3 - Shirley Kitchen - D
5 - Mike Stack - D
7 - Vincent Hughes - D
9 - Thomas Bosak - D
11 - Michael O'Pake - D
15 - Eric J. Epstein - D
17 - Connie Williams - D
19 - Robert Thompson - R
21 - Kevan Yenerall - D
33 - Don Richards - D
35 - John Wozniak - D
39 - Allen Kukovich - D
43 - Jay Costa - D
45 - Sean Logan - D
47 - Gerald LaValle - D
49 - Tony Logue - D

PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1 - Linda Bebko-Jones - D
3 - Matthew Good - R
4 - Tom Scrimenti - D
5 - John Evans - R
7 - Michael Gruitza - D
14 - Michael Veon - D
19 - Jake Wheatley - D
20 - Don Walko - D
21 - Frank Pistella - D
22 - Michael Diven - D
23 - Dan Frankel - D
24 - Joseph Preston - D
27 - Thomas Petrone - D
29 - Bernie O'Neil - R
31 - David Steil - R
33 - Frank Dermody - D
34 - Paul Costa - D
35 - Marc Gergley - D
36 - Harry Readshaw - D
39 - David Ledansky - D
45 - Nick Kotick - D
49 - Peter Daley - D
50 - William Deweese - D
56 - James Casorio - D
58 - Ted Harhai - D
61 - Doug Ross - D
70 - Matthew Gordon - D
87 - Marilyn Zilli - D
88 - Margaret Stuski - D
94 - Stanley Saylor - R
95 - Stephen Stetler - D
96 - Michael Sturla - D
103 - Ronald Buxton - D
107 - Robert Belfanti - D
112 - Fred Belardi - D
114 - Jim Wansacz - D
115 - Edward Staback - D
116 - Todd Eachus - D
117 - Nate Sorber - D
118 - Thomas Tigue - D
119 - John Yudichak - D
120 - Phyllis Mundy - D
122 - Keith McCall - D
123 - Neal Goodman - D
126 - Dante Santoni - D
127 - Tom Caltagirone - D
131 - Patrick Browne - R
132 - Jennifer Mann - D
133 - T.J. Rooney - D
135 - Steve Samuelson - D
136 - Robert Freeman - D
141 - Anthony Melio - D
143 - Chuck McIlhinney - R
148 - Melissa Weber - R
149 - Daylin Leach - D
150 - Rebecca Wall - D
151 - Eugene McGill - R
152 - Susan Cornell - R
153 - Josh Shapiro - D
154 - Lawrence Curry - D
156 - Barbara Smith - D
157- Carole A. Rubley - R
158 - Chris Ross - R
159 - Thaddeus Kirkland - D
160 - Mike McGann - D
162 - Catherine Celley - D
165 - Dustin Gettel - D
166 - Greg Vitali - D
172 - Tim Kearney - D
173 - Michael McGeehan - D
174 - Alan Butkovitz - D
175 - Marie Lederer - D
178 - Scott Petri - R
181 - W. Curtis Thomas - D
182 - Babette Josephs - D
184 - William Keller - D
185 - Robert Donatucci - D
186 - Harold James - D
188 - James Roebuck - D
191 - Ronald Waters - D
192 - Louise Bishop - D
193 - Steven Nickol - R
194 - Kathy Manderino - D
195 - Frank Oliver - D
197 - Jewel Williams - D
198 - Rosita Youngblood - D
200 - LeAnna Washington - D
201 - John Myers - D
202 - Mark Cohen - D
203 - Dwight Evans - D

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON ELECTION DAY AND BEYOND!
E-mail info@pa-gala.org or call 610-863-0227 if you can help!

Paid for by PA-GALA - Steve Black, Treasurer

The Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance (PA-GALA) is the largest lgbt political organization in the Commonwealth. PA-GALA works for full equality for LGBT Pennsylvanians at the federal, state and local levels of government. PA-GALA's endorses the best candidate on lgbt issues in each district. Endorsement does not mean that a candidate supports all our issues, but only that the endorsed candidate is the best candidate running this year in that district. State Legislature endorsements are based on support for PA's hate crimes law, support for the lgbt civil rights bills and opposition to anti-LGBT amendments.

Remember to take a valid photo id with you on Election Day, especially if you are a first time voter.

To join PA-GALA, send $25 for individual membership or $35 for a family membership to PA-GALA - PO Box 20825 - Lehigh Valley, PA 18002.

Contributions to PA-GALA are not tax deductible on federal income taxes.

TAKE THIS AD INTO THE VOTING BOOTH!

DESIGN BY DCS PUBLISHING (WWW.DCSPUB.COM)

Does Homosexuality Destroy Family Values?

By Noah Clyman
Dickinson College
Contributing Writer

James Dobson is an evangelical Christian dedicated to the preservation of heterosexual culture and therefore, eradication of behaviors or social practices that do not conform to the conservative Christian ideology.

Dobson founded the right-wing special interest group Focus on the Family. He edits the organization's newsletter. In a recent editorial (http://www.family.org/docstudy/newsletters/A0031315.cfm), Dobson openly attacks homosexuality, insisting it threatens the "welfare of the family." He offers what he says are "powerful arguments" in favor of his view. I consider his arguments inaccurate and bigoted rants. Here's why.

Dobson declares that the sole purpose of homosexuality is to "destroy" the family. He does not present a shred of logical evidence for this assertion. In truth, homosexuals are, like heterosexuals, only seeking satisfying sexual and romantic relationships with other humans who happen to be of the same sex. I have never met a single homosexual man or woman – and I have met a lot of them – who was even remotely interested in destroying anybody's family or "recruiting" anyone into the gay lifestyle. What is "the gay lifestyle" anyway for these bigots? Same as the heterosexual lifestyle – we go to work, pay taxes (with no effective representation), volunteer in the community, mow our lawns.

Dobson implies that homosexuals would gladly bring the world to an end by eliminating those who keep it populated through procreation. In reality, homosexuals love life and the world as much as their straight friends (and enemies). They simply want to share in the American dream.

Dobson lumps together acceptance of basic civil rights for gays with "overturning laws prohibiting pedophilia," another scurrilous accusation made without evidence. Since the 1970s, homosexuality has been recognized as a healthy lifestyle by the American Psychological Association; pedophilia is a perversion that, contrary to Dobson's misunderstanding, is correlated with heterosexual arousal, as recent research shows.

Dobson proposes that "allowing homosexual marriage would result in the instability of living arrangements for our children." PAL-ease! With the heterosexual divorce rate hovering at 50 percent, it is ridiculous to suggest this is a "gay issue." Many homosexual couples are raising happy, healthy children. Indeed, homosexuals, unlike heterosexuals, don't have children "by accident" and thus fully choose parenthood if they do at all.

Furthermore, Dobson suggests that "gay marriages will set the table for polygamy because there is no place to stop once that Rubicon has been crossed." Baloney! Legalizing gay marriage would in no way affect the entirely separate laws banning polygamy any more than it would affect the laws prohibiting drunk driving.

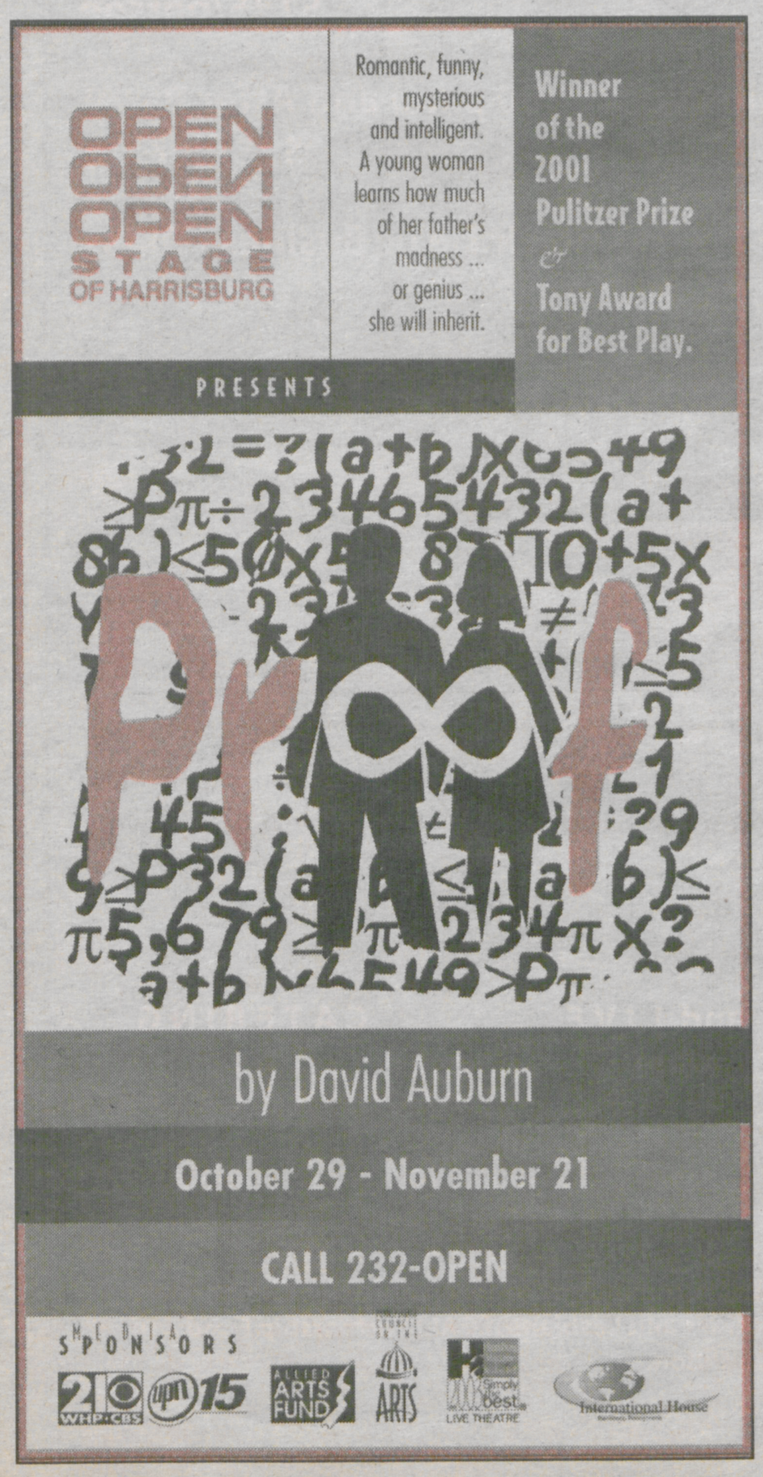
Dobson also states that allowing gay marriage is no different than allowing a man to marry his donkey. Again, Dobson is not interested in providing a logical argument, but in associating homosexuality with bestiality simply to create confusion and perpetuate unsubstantiated homophobia. It's an absurd statement.

Finally, Dobson fears that "the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be severely curtailed" if homosexuality is accepted in our culture. He suggests that a gay-friendly culture would be a godless culture. Look, a completely heterosexual culture could be completely godless and this is indisputable. Homosexuals can be, and many are, deeply religious.

Dobson's views are outrageous and outdated but carry significant (and dangerous) political clout because he can mobilize followers to act. He's also built alliances with Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish groups.

The only way to protect yourself against being sucked into Dobson's poisonous propaganda is by refusing to accept assertions without proof. Readers need to educate themselves on issues so that they recognize a lie when they read one. In order to overcome sexual discrimination and obtain true equality, all good-minded people, gay and straight alike, must acknowledge, confront and challenge Dobson's counterfactual nonsense.

Noah Clyman is a Psychology major interested in queer theory, social activism. He wants to work with clients in humanistic environments, helping individuals self-actualize.



Considering Bankruptcy

By Derek J. Cordier, Esquire
www.derekjcordier.com

Most people, at certain times in their lives, have financial problems. Reasons such as sickness and unemployment may cause someone, who would ordinarily pay their bills, to fall behind. Considering bankruptcy?

First, you should determine if bankruptcy is appropriate. There are many non-bankruptcy debt reducing options that may be considered. Reputable debt consolidation programs and credit card settlements are such options.

For most consumers there are two types of bankruptcy filings. Essentially a Chapter 7 filing is for those with no substantial assets and whose expenses outweigh their income.

A Chapter 13 filing is for those with some assets and income that is greater than their expenses.

Most Chapter 7 filings are no-asset cases. This means that no assets are sold to pay the creditors. Usually homes and cars are kept by the debtor assuming the debtor is willing to continue to make payments on them. A Chapter 7 is usually complete (discharged) in four to six months. Chapter 7 court filing fees are approximately $200.00 and attorney fees range from $500.00 to over $1,000.00.

A Chapter 13 filing is for those with substantial assets and/or income that is greater than their expenses. Seventy-five percent of the debtor's disposable (after expenses) income is paid monthly into a payment "plan." That amount is then paid, in a pro rata percentage to the creditors, the attorney, and the trustee. The payment "plan" runs a minimum of three years.

One common reason to use a Chapter 13 is to cure a mortgage default. The debtor simply pays the arrearages over the term of the plan. The Chapter 13 court filing fees approximate those in Chapter 7 filings. However, the attorney fees are considerably higher as they are included in the payment "plan."

Most attorney's in this area offer free consultations. However, you should also consult with other professionals such as CPAs and/or financial advisors and attempt to resolve the financial problem. Remember, resorting to bankruptcy will adversely impact your credit for years to come.

Allentown Human Relations Commission Gives Awards

The Allentown Human Relations Commission announce winners to the 27th Annual Human Relations Awards last month. Keynote speaker was Malcolm Gross, Esq., Gross, McGinley LaBarre & Eaton who spoke on "Brown vs. Board of Education - Civil Rights Then and Now.'

The commission recognizes the unique efforts of individuals, organizations and businesses promoting good human relations in the City of Allentown and that bridge gaps between people of different cultures, language, race, age, and background, so that all may participate fully in the life of our city.

Individual Awards

William Diehl-

For his record of service to human relations and his work to bring society together and provide a range of support to assist low income families in gaining self-sufficiency. He is the founder of the Interfaith Coalition on Poverty.

Marlene & Beall Fowle -

For their significant contribution of time and resources to many organizations serving the Allentown community. Their efforts to enable and empower families and youth helps build bridges and provide an example of good human relations in our community.

Joseph Wilfinger-

As an activist for diversity and Chair of the Lehigh Valley Labor Council's Civil Rights Committee. Through his participation as a volunteer he encourages others to celebrate their diversity and ethnic heritage.

Group Award

Pathways Resource Counselors-

Volunteers of the Lehigh County Conference of Churches, recognizing the Pathways Resource Counselors who through their compassionate work help the program clients integrate into the community, bringing stability and dignity to families in crisis. They perform 90% of all client service intake and referrals, conducting as many as 500 interviews each month.

Business Award

Clyde Bosket Sr-

Clyde's Barber Shop. Mr. Bosket Sr. has welcomed many people to the Allentown community and has successfully mentored them to start their own businesses. Mr. Bosket shares his love of God with the community and has provided the opportunity for many young to have a job and establish accountability while becoming responsible adults.

continued on page 9

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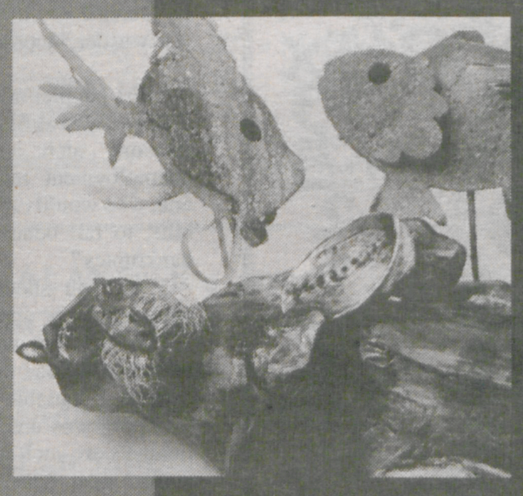

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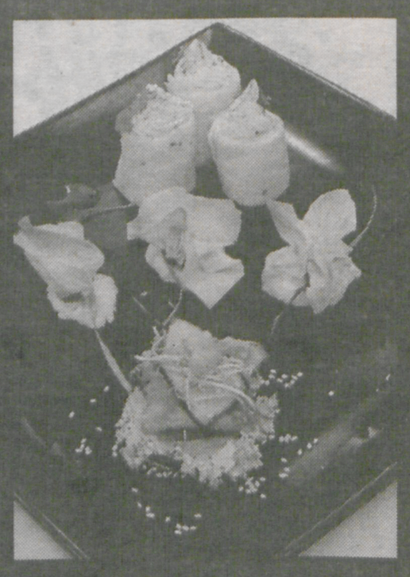

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2004

Proceeds from FAB 2004 will benefit non-profit organizations serving the Gay and Lesbian community in York, Lancaster, Cumberland, Dauphin, Perry, Franklin, and Lebanon counties. Funds are granted through Equity for Gays and Lesbians (EGAL) Partnership Fund and administrated by The Greater Harrisburg Foundation.

Viewpoint

Driven by Expectations: Luke 13:10-17

A sermon delivered by Rev. Russell H Mueller Pastor,
St Michael Lutheran Church
Harrisburg

The incident in our Gospel Lesson is relatively easy for us to visualize. Jesus is teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. A woman who had been crippled for 18 years appears. Without her request, Jesus heals her. It is a beautiful, spontaneous, loving action.

Luke, however, reports that the leader of the synagogue sees Jesus' action in a very different light. He is indignant because Jesus healed her on the Sabbath, and he admonishes Jesus.

Back in the days when I was teaching confirmation classes of 25 – 35 students, one gimmick used to keep the students involved (and awake) was to have them "take a stand" on the point being discussed. In this case, I would have had all those who supported Jesus stand on one side of the room, and all those who supported the synagogue leader on the other side of the room.

In this case, I expect that everyone would have sided with Jesus. The assumption is that lightning would strike (or something similar) if one would stand on the side that opposed Jesus. Then the argument would begin. I would have pled the case of the Synagogue leader, and the students would be expected to defend why they stood with Jesus.

It was easy to defend the leader. He had strong biblical foundation and a very strong tradition that endorsed his criticism of Jesus. Part of argument that would have supported the leader of the synagogue is found in verses of our First Lesson. God very explicitly promised Isaiah that if the people would "refrain from trampling the Sabbath" God would bless them. There was also the commandment that no work should be done on the Sabbath Day. Without a doubt, Jesus was ignoring what both the Bible and tradition clearly set forth.

How many times have you heard people lift up the 10 commandments as God's absolute law that cannot be broken? How many times have you heard people say that we can only live by what the Bible says? And how many times do we hear that if the Church has been teaching something for centuries than there can be no change? Jesus' action was a blatant defiance of all these statements, statements by which most god-fearing people live today (including me.)

There should be a tension within every person who studies this lesson. There should be a tension between supporting Jesus because Jesus clearly does what is right, and, supporting the leader who is standing on a solid foundation of the Bible and tradition that we are expected to uphold.

The leader of the Synagogue could have quoted Jesus when Jesus said that he had not come to abolish the law or the prophets. (Matt 5:17) Jesus appeared to be doing the very thing he said he was not sent to do: abolish the law and the prophets.

The leader could have asked Jesus if it was all so unreasonable to ask a person who had lived with a problem for 18 years to live with it another 18 hours so that the words of the Law and the Prophets could be preserved. The Synagogue leader knew that once a person opens the door and finds a way to make one exception, the strength of the law is shattered. There is a compelling logic in asking a person to wait just a little bit longer; it is compelling to everyone but the person who is suffering and Jesus.

This situation and logic has been perpetually contemporary. Throughout time, people suffering from innumerable forms of injustice have had their injustice genuinely acknowledged but then told that they need to wait. Budgets need to be balanced. People need to be educated. There is a process to be completed. It is all very logical to everyone but the person suffering and Jesus.

I do not remember ever having a class discussion on this text, but I imagine that if I had, few if any students would have left Jesus' side of the room. Teenagers, especially early teens, can be very legalistic like the synagogue leader. But very few of them, if any, would have left Jesus' side to join the leader to criticize Jesus. Besides being legalistic, early teens can have a fierce sense of justice. There would be something horribly unjust about Jesus not healing the woman even if it meant breaking the law.

In this situation, and in others, we see that how Jesus reads the Bible and how Jesus perceives tradition is significantly different than how the religious people understand both the Bible and tradition. Very few people today seem to appreciate that Jesus' perception of the Bible and history was at times revolutionary.

Jesus does not regard the Law to be inflexible and without exception. Jesus explained that people were more important than the Law or tradition. The leader was correct to lift up the danger of breaking a law for the sake of a greater need. It is VERY dangerous. But there are times we need NEW traditions and NEW understandings of the Bible NOT to be closer to society BUT to be closer to God. Such steps are dangerous, but there are times when we are compelled to take such steps.

Woven into this text is a point that needs attention. It is a classic example of the fact that people function with preconceived assumptions. As we absorb the culture around us and receive specific instruction from parents, teachers, books and clergy, we develop paradigms, principles that are foundational to our life and thinking. Everyone has these paradigms even though we not specifically aware of them. The synagogue leader was schooled in the detail of the Law and the Prophets. That was his way of thinking. He had solid paradigms, and he could not imagine any other way of thinking. He anticipated Jesus would fulfill his expectations.

It is unfair and inappropriate to condemn the Bible quoting leader. The natural tendency when we interact with God or with his teaching that we like the synagogue leader will bring with us our paradigms and expectations. As life advances, our paradigms either change or are reinforced. When I attended Pacific Lutheran University, many paradigms were radically changed. The same thing happened while I was at seminary. And I have still needed to change my paradigms, expectations and understanding of God throughout the forty years since then.

Because our environment can significantly impact our paradigms, and because the media is so much a part of our environment, I am seriously concerned about the portrayal of Christianity which is projected by the media. I believe we are grossly distorted. The Jesus I see in the Gospel, Sunday after Sunday, is not the Jesus seen throughout the world today. World wide, Jesus is being projected as being pro-rich, pro-war, pro-straight and pro-American. I find Christians who form their understanding and expectation of God from the media. As these Christians turn to the Bible they are much like the leader of the synagogue. They are good people who want to follow the Bible. But they come to the Bible with a mind set that has been crafted but an avalanche of misinformation from various forms of media as secular leaders use the Bible for their own agendas.

It is time for Christians to strive to get back to a historic, biblical, and genuinely evangelical faith. Christianity must be rescued from its popular but distorted paradigms and expectations. The God of the Bible is not the God of any single Christian denomination, political party or nation. God is Lord over all. He calls into accountability every denomination and government. Christianity must return to being a prophetic religion that has God's Word to say to every politician, every platform, every nation and every denomination. Christianity must define itself and not allow it to be defined by the media quotes.

When we take back our faith, we will discover that faith challenges the "powers that be" to do justice for the poor. When we take back our faith, we will remember that faith hates violence and tries to reduce violence in any form. When we take back our faith, we will see that faith creates community from racial, class, and gender divisions; we will also see that faith prefers international community over nationalism. When we take back our faith, we will be reminded that faith regards its paradigms as standards by which to live and not ammunition to use against other people. When we take back our faith, we will recognize how easy it is to expect God to follow our paradigms, as the synagogue leader did, locking God in the box of our expectations.

The daunting call for Christians is to keep our paradigms in harmony with God, finding the balance between the Word of God and the Spirit of God, and to do so aware of how easy it is to have our thumb on one side of the scale.

Allentown Awards continued

Organizational Awards

Allentown Rotary Club-

For the past 90 years has contributed time, professional expertise and financial resources to enhance the quality of life for all Allentonians through countless volunteer hours directed to youth programs, elderly services, community emergency services and neighborhood projects.

Neighborhood Housing Services of the Lehigh Valley-

For assisting hundreds of families in the City of Allentown to purchase their home. In addition, they provide Financial Fitness workshops, Section 8-to-Home Ownership Opportunities, Foreclosure Prevention, and Rehabilitation Programs. NHS encourages involvement, leadership, confidence and pride in the Allentown neighborhoods through their many programs.

Special Recognition

Special Recognition of Service Awards will be presented posthumously to Clayton Bond Jr., and Richard Scrak Sr.

Bond founded and became President of the Lehigh Valley African American Chamber of Commerce in 2001, making the LVAAC a "how to do it' forum for all members to help bridge the economic divide between minority and mainstream business. Bond was interested and concerned with education and housing opportunities, starting the 10 Black Men program to mentor students, which grew to encompass more than 100 mentors of all races and cultures.

Scrak Sr., with wife Millie, served as Coordinators for the Ecumenical Kitchen in Allentown from 1982 until his death in July 2004, providing 200 meals per day four days a week, over 30,000 meals per year. They made the Ecumenical Kitchen a beacon of hope to those most vulnerable and alienated from our society. In the land of plenty, men, women and children - all cultures, races, religions, age, backgrounds and languages, come to the kitchen for food - the most basic of necessities.

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Letters continued

carwash - to all the females except me. These mindsets are the main reason I opted, after I transitioned, to move away from the lgbt community and into everyday society. I am disappointed to see that these attitudes are still prevalent, especially when activists are preaching the "big tent" approach. At least no asked me what club my drag show was at - I hate it when that happens.

Am I a "woman"? In some ways I have become one, in some ways I am still in the process of becoming one, in some ways I have always been one, and in some ways, I never will be one. I am the unique set of quantities and qualities that make me - as is everyone who reads this letter.

What annoys me that Pride is a festival that proclaims "love" and "acceptance", but when it comes down to brass tacks, I still find more acceptance in the Heterosexual community, at the price of repressing my sexuality (well, at least 50 % of the time).

What can we do? As a committed Christian, I believe that we need to follow Jesus' advice and remove the log from our own eye before we start complaining about the stick in our brother's and sister's eye. I realize that being part of the lgbt community does not allow one to escape the condition of being human, and that prejudice is part of that condition, but if we are to be truly children of the rainbow, then we need to embrace the struggles and identities of all the member of our most queer coalition - so that we do become a big tent in fact, as well as words.

Sincerely,
Alice

Patricia Nell Warren Warns Against Censorship

In Part I of our Alternative Central's interview with Patricia Nell Warren, the outspoken author of the classic gay novel "The Front Runner" discussed the current state of AIDS treatment politics. Now we find out about some of the backlash she has received and her hopes for a more cohesive gay community in the future.

Alexander Renault: I tried but couldn't get a hold of your articles "Future Shock" and "Concerned Women." Could you please tell us what each was about and why they were so controversial?

Patricia Nell Warren: "Future Shock" was published by The Advocate in 1995. It offered a futuristic look at youth and our society's trend to greater youth oppression. It was controversial because I openly discussed the willingness of some gay people to exploit our youth.

"Concerned Women" was an editorial of mine that ran in the Des Moines Register several years ago. I took a whack at Concerned Women of America, calling them "unconcerned women" because they don't care about violence against GLBT students in schools. Indeed, I said, CWA encourages that violence, because the organization wants protection for hostile anti-gay speech by Christian students, and attacks any school policy protecting GLBT students as an "endorsement of homosexuality."

AR: That is absolutely disgusting.

PNW: CWA was not happy about my statements, and president Beverly LaHaye personally contacted the Register -- which ran no more editorials of mine after that.

AR: So instead of opening a dialogue they just fire-walled you?

PNW: Yes.

AR: Speaking of interesting communications skills, let's talk about lawmakers-- they can be so slippery, like big, fat eels. You wrote about the two censorship amendments attached to an emergency appropriations bill. A few years ago the Penn State Senate voted to offer its employees domestic partnership benefits. The university president, Graham Spanier, vetoed the benefits. It was the first time in the history of the university that a president did not heed the advice of the school's own Senate. When pressed for a reason he stated that it would adversely affect monies received by the state. Everyone knew it was complete bullshit. How often do politicians try the stealth technique in GLBT legal rights issues?

PNW: Very often, I think. It's a standard tactic to lie about your real reasons for doing such and such. No different than Bush saying he attacked Iraq to bring freedom to the Iraqi people, when many of know that is BS.

AR: The epigram for this interview is your comment, "If more Americans don't block the stealthy advance of censorship laws, the biggest casualty will be our national ability to tell ourselves the truth about anything." Could you elaborate on this for us?

PNW: We're experiencing this problem with our post- 9/11 censorship, which has resulted in an apparent inability to tell ourselves the truth about the war in Iraq. The truth about why we're there, and why American casualties are mounting now when we supposedly "won" already, and where the weapons of mass destruction are, and who is profiting from Iraq reconstruction, etc. (Also the truth about the war in Afghanistan, where we are withdrawing and the Taliban is taking over again, so it appears that we haven't "won" in Afghanistan either.)

> **"If more Americans don't block the stealthy advance of censorship laws, the biggest casualty will be our national ability to tell ourselves the truth about anything."**

AR: Last question: What would your fans find surprising or even shocking to learn about you?

PNW: I suppose they'd be shocked to learn that I don't believe we're a "gay community" yet. That phrase gets bandied around a lot. But we need to be a lot less exploitive of our youth, and a lot more respectful and caring of our old people, before we earn the title of "a real community."

They might also be surprised that I feel frustrated at the way people focus so much on The Front Runner. It's wonderful to know that this book has acquired a life of its own. Yet my other works have gone unnoticed by many people. I have a body of work that stretches over 50 years, including eight novels, hundreds of short works, and poetry from the 50s and 60s. A few of these poems were recently republished by the gay literary magazine Lodestar Quarterly.

AR: Thanks so much for agreeing to be interviewed. This was a lot of fun, entertaining and informative.

PGN: This was a treat for me! And I'm glad that the historical novel One In the Sun is back in print-- this book represents an important side of who I am, and where I come from.

Alexander Renault is the pen name for a writer who has published in multiple genres. He has worked in the mental health and drug and alcohol fields for the past fifteen years. Mr. Renault is the editor of the non-fiction anthology Walking Higher: Gay Men Write About the Deaths of Their Mothers. He invites you to visit him at AlexanderRenault.com.

by Alexander Renault

PSU Offers Art Course on Sexuality & Class

Looking for an interesting art studio course?

Pennsylvania State University Continuing Education Department approved a three credit course "Art 297F . Race, Sexuality, and Class Explorations in New Genres of Art". The innoivative course is scheduled for Tuesdays 6-9:00 p.m. in a location to be announced.

Taught by Gabriel, the course is a studio/workshop exploring the creation of new genres in art and issues of difference. The course involves the history, evolution, and practice of video, installation, performance, intervention, computer-generated, site-specific, sound, and public art.

Students will examine the ways race, sexuality and/or class differences are addressed in the works of contemporary artists such as Yoko Ono, Suzanne Lacy, Vito Acconci, and Adrian Piper. Students will be asked to focus on their own experiences with issues of difference in creating work.

Gabriel will assist each student in working outside traditional art practices. The course is not aimed at the teaching of a craft, but rather the exploration of the complex process of "meaning making" as it relates to difference. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Contact Gabriel – 814-867-1206; gew116@psu.edu.

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Lesbian Notions
Elect To Get Involved

by Paula Martinac

In response to the presidential-election debacle of 2000, in which both parties reported voting irregularities in a number of key states, a group ofconcerned Americans created a national, nonpartisan voting-rights projectcalled Election Protection 2004. The general election is fast approaching,but there's still time for gay people to join in this volunteer effort tosafeguard the foundation of our democracy - the right to vote for our representatives in government.

I don't need to preach to lesbian and gay readers about the importance of voting - we go to the polls in much higher percentages than the American people as a whole. We understand all too well that whoever sits in the Oval Office contributes heavily to setting the climate for gay people in this country. And we know that by giving an enthusiastic stamp of approval to the Federal Marriage Amendment, our current president has officially sanctioned intolerance of lesbians and gay men.

But we may need to be reminded that, for many Americans, voting is an endangered right. And we need to challenge the idea that discussing voting problems openly and trying to do something about them is just "sour grapes" over the 2000 election or an unwillingness to "get over" its results (which two of my colleagues in the gay media once accused me of). If you have any doubts about how vital it is to question the accuracy and fairness of our voting system, just rent the documentary _Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election_, which outlines in a succinct 50 minutes the mistakes and abuses that led to widespread voter disenfranchisement in Florida four years ago.

The likelihood that the 2004 election will be a close one increases the risk of civil-rights violations, especially in the swing states; indeed, there have already been warning signs of polling-place abuse. During the primary in Florida last month, for example, poll watchers reported that many African-American voters were being turned away for not having identification, and without being informed that they could, by state law, simply sign an affidavit attesting to their identity and then proceed to vote. And that was just the primary - imagine how high the stakes will be for the actual presidential election.

Also, Florida has once again undertaken a purge of convicted ex-felons from its voter rolls, as it did in 2000, when it disenfranchised thousands of voters who had no criminal records at all. It's no accident that this multimillion-dollar effort, in a state headed by the president's brother, has targeted mostly African Americans, who tend to vote Democratic.

Understandably, anxiety is running high among voting-rights activists, who worry in particular about voting equipment. In Ohio, one of the top battleground states, punch-card ballots - made notorious in 2000 for their high margin of error - will be used in 69 of 88 counties. One law professor told the _Cincinnati Enquirer_ that a close election in his state could spell an "election night meltdown." Around the country, touch-screen voting, which is being implemented in many areas for the first time and which leaves no paper trail, is also cause for trepidation. Touted by many congressional Republicans as the answer to all our voting problems, electronic ballots completely - and conveniently - eliminate all possibility of recounts and put our most cherished right at the mercy of the corporations that manufacture the equipment and software.

All of this suggests that Nov. 2, 2004, might be a pretty dark day for democracy. But the good news is that there are concrete things we can do now to try to aid the democratic process. First, to ensure that your own vote counts, familiarize yourself in advance with your state's voting procedures and your own rights, which can be found on the website of your Secretary of State or your county's Bureau of Elections. Then expand your effort a little by committing to "Take a Friend to Vote," a project of the League of Women Voters, in which citizens pledge to bring a neighbor, friend, or relative to the polls. (For instructions, visit www.lwv.org.)

But to make an even greater contribution, consider volunteering for Election Protection (www.electionprotection2004.org), which aims to train and deploy 25,000 citizens as poll watchers in battleground states. TracFone is providing phones and air time for poll workers to report abuses or to consult with civil-rights attorneys if problems arise. While lawyers and law students are particularly needed for this project, all concerned citizens are welcome to volunteer for tasks like handing out voting-rights flyers in the days preceding the election. If you live in Michigan, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, or another swing state, or are able to travel to one of them for Election Day, the time you donate could have a big impact on the accuracy of the election - and on the future well-being of our democracy.

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

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Any docs want business?

Lesbian Health Emerges as Medical Specialty

Accustomed to neglect from the doctors, the lesbian community assigned itself the task of assessing its members' distinctive health problems.

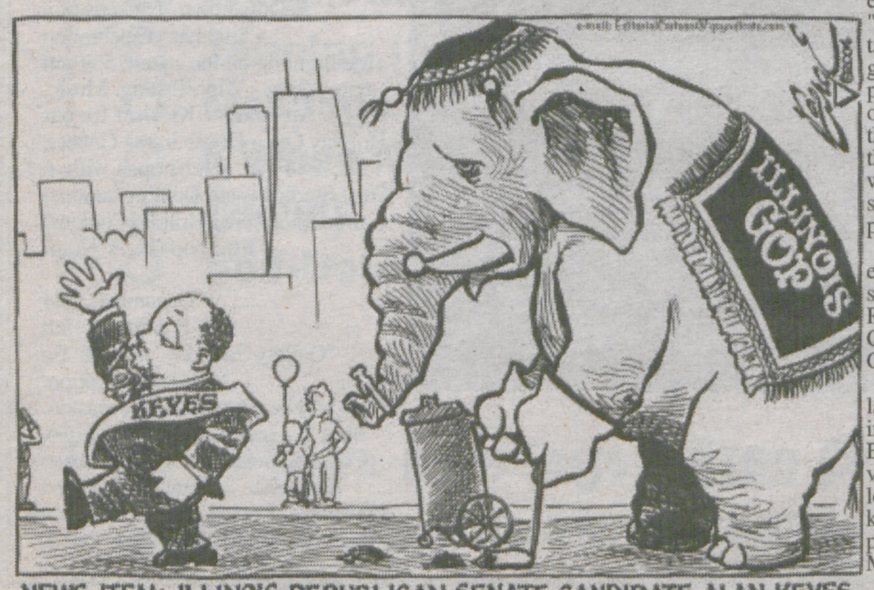
Minus a specific crisis like AIDS, the diagnosis is still grim: Compared to heterosexual women, lesbians have higher rates of smoking, obesity and alcohol use. They often lack health insurance or are wary of unsympathetic doctors. Therefore, they undergo routine medical exams that could identify cancer and other problems at early stages.

Further complicating these factors, researchers say, is a glaring shortage of comprehensive data, resulting from the fact that most health surveys, and death certificates, don't account for sexual orientation.

"We don't know the mortality rates, we don't know the suicide rates," said Dr. Patricia Robertson of the University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine. "Lesbians are invisible." Robertsonco-directs UCSF's Lesbian Health Research Center, founded in 1999 to fill the void in the study of lesbians' medical problems.

Other relatively new organizations have undertaken similar efforts, including the San Francisco-based Lesbian Health Fund and the Washington-based Mautner Project, which focuses on lesbians with cancer. A national conference on lesbian health was held in Chicago last month.

"What we want to do is make sure we're all living as healthily as possible," said Cheryl Pearson-Fields of the Mautner Project. "You're focusing on the things that lead to negative health outcomes, and the message can seem very negative." She said smoking and substance abuse, to the extent they are more prevalent among lesbians, may be linked to the stress of feeling targeted by prejudice.



NEWS ITEM: ILLINOIS REPUBLICAN SENATE CANDIDATE ALAN KEYES CALLS MARY CHENEY A "SELFISH HEDONIST"

Eric Epstein continued

that" as a mother of a gay son, met last January with one of Senator Piccola's top staff. She made it very clear to me that, given the opportunity, Piccola would vote in favor of the Constitutional amendment against gay marriage, would not support benefits for gay couples, and, in general, would do nothing to help the gay community."

Epstein has pledged to not support any form of discrimination or exclusionary legislation involving the lgbt community. "I applaud this historic gathering and appreciate the endorsement," Epstein said. "It is essential that the Stonewall Democrats succeed and become an influential voice in area politics."

Epstein also received endorsements from the Dauphin County Democratic Party, York County Democratic Party, the Pennsylvania Democratic Party; AFSCME District Council 90, the unit of the American Federation of State, County, the Municipal Employees representing more than 15,000 public employees in Dauphin County, and United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 1776.

Following party endorsements came the support of Chocolate Workers Local 464, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 520, the Pennsylvania Service Employees International Union, the State Sierra Club and the American Postal Workers Union Local 1566, Keystone Area Local.

"I'm delighted to have all these endorsements," Epstein says. "While some candidates might take the party's endorsement for granted, I'm grateful for the support they're showing me, not only in terms of the volunteers that will be helping me and for the dollars that will help us as we move forward, but for the show of confidence in our campaign."

Epstein also picked up endorsements from his former student at Penn State, Scott Rymer, and Harrisburg City Controller James McCarthy, CPA, a friend for many years.

Referring to Epstein's vigilance over electric utilities paying their taxes McCarthy says, Epstein has successfully intervened on many occasions to lower rates. "His vigilance has kept millions of dollars in the pockets of ratepayers," McCarthy says."

Strategies For Retaining Key Employees

Benn J. Smith
Financial Consultant
Karr Barth Associates of AXA Advisors, LLC

If your company relies on the services, expertise and management skills of a few key people, losing one of them to a competitor could have a severe impact on your bottom line. Your star performers are the ones who may be wooed by other companies or may decide to set up their own shop. So, to protect your business operations, it's prudent to cultivate the type of work environment that can help avoid costly key employee turnover.

For example, many business owners have found that their top executives thrive on autonomy. They want a sense of job ownership and are likely to work well under such conditions because, in many respects, these people are entrepreneurs who just happen to work for you.

If possible, give your top employees autonomy by passing on more responsibility for day-to-day business activities like planning, budgeting, hiring and firing and setting incentive goals for their people. Then, compensate them to a large extent on the basis of performance. This helps keep your key executives challenged and motivated—and gives them a feeling of being in business for themselves.

Another effective tool in retaining key employees is benefits. A quality benefits package may be as important as a competitive salary. And, a company that provides such a program is likely to become the employer of choice. Of course, because good benefits are expensive, you must weigh the cost-effectiveness of such programs.

A comprehensive employee benefits package may include a retirement savings program like a 401(k), a health care plan and, perhaps, life insurance. You may also want to consider providing help with childcare, in the form of an on-site facility or in conjunction with a local provider. The point is that if you offer quality benefits, you create an environment where your employees don't have to worry about these things. And, they stay.

Finally, top performers generally get great satisfaction from personal development. Training, both internally and externally, can work to improve overall employee skills. As a result, your people feel good about themselves, and your company benefits from the improved management and technical capabilities.

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Building community key

Alternative Central Talks to Harvey Fierstein

By Winnie McCroy
NYC Correspondent

"Why can't we all speak loudly against this party drug that is destroying our community?" activist Peter Staley recently asked 700 advocates, legislators and concerned citizens at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology.

The crowds gathered for actor Harvey Fierstein's second discussion addressing crystal methamphetamine's impact on the gay community. They brainstormed strategies to combat it.

Crystal meth use linked to one-third of new HIV cases.

With HIV infection rates increasing steadily over the past three years, And with rates nearly doubling in Harrisburg this year, the gay community has begun investigating reasons behind the end of the safe-sex culture of the '90s. One reason doctors say is increasing use of the drug crystal meth. It is linked to at least one-third of the new infections.

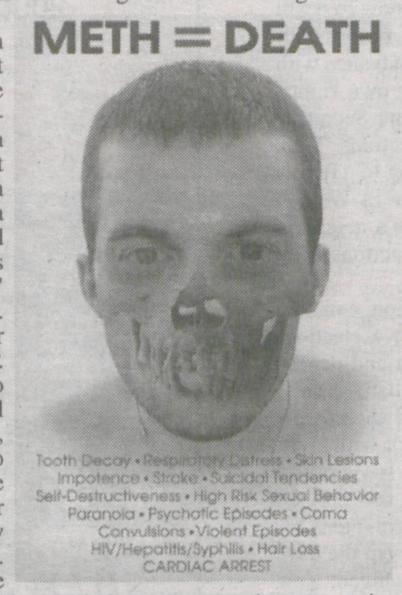
Once a backwoods brew reserved for truckers and social miscreants, crystal has in the past decade been remade as a party drug, and marketed to gay men as 'tina', a sort of ecstasy plus. Initially popular in California, the drug now wracks the East Coast.

The panel, organized by Daniel Carson and Dr. Bruce Kellerhouse, Ph.D. consisted of Staley, plus doctors Steven Lee, M.D., a psychiatrist, and Steven Tierney, Ed.D., from the San Francisco Department of Public Health, and recovering crystal addict, Trevor P.

Much was made of Staley's ad campaign, funded with $6,000 of his own dollars, conducted with Vincent Gagliostro, which features a buff male body, face obscured by a disco ball, with the caption "Buy crystal, get HIV free." Many cheered the ad as a much-needed reality check, but others said demonizing the drug was ineffective.

Staley compared crystal meth's danger to heroin and, raising awareness by getting a show of hands, illustrated that while there is a community consensus that heroin is dangerous, no such reputation beleaguers crystal. "If we keep quiet about crystal countless more gay men will try [it] as the next ecstasy," said Staley. "I remember when AIDS first hit in the '90s we rose up and publicly fought back. Here in 2004, we need to speak honestly and loudly about the real dangers of crystal meth."

"We need a message that responds to the reality that crystal meth is a drug you get hooked on easily, with a relapse period that just kicks your ass," echoed Dr. Tierney. Former addict Trevor P. knows this too well. A small town boy, Trevor got into the club scene soon after moving to New York City. When the 27-year-old man decided to try crystal meth, even his dealer warned him against it. But he was soon addicted to the sense of sexual excitement and intimacy between gay men it created. He began having sex in group situations.


METH = DEATH
Tooth Decay • Respiratory Distress • Skin Lesions
Impotence • Stroke • Suicidal Tendencies
Self-Destructiveness • High Risk Sexual Behavior
Paranoia • Psychotic Episodes • Coma
Convulsions • Violent Episodes
HIV/Hepatitis/Syphilis • Hair Loss
CARDIAC ARREST

"I call my generation somewhat complacent. I was not touched by friends dying of AIDS," said Trevor P. "I thought if I did get infected, I could just take the vitamins. By late November, I was infected from unprotected anal sex. I stopped, but three months later started using again. I didn't know the extent of my sickness or what I was battling."

Dr. Lee, who has worked with Callen-Lorde Community Health Center tracking club drug use since 1999, knows what Trevor is battling. In New York, one of every three new infections is linked to crystal, and Dr. Lee sees in each the same symptoms of paranoia, hallucinations and a compulsion to use crystal despite the urge to stop. Lee noted that the drug taps into the part of the brain that controls sexual urges and hardwires it to need the drug, and to need sex. In his opinion, using crystal meth recreationally is impossible.

"Harm reduction doesn't work with crystal, because it is so addictive it primes your brain to need crystal," Lee told the audience. "By the time you realize that, it may be too late... .You may have lost your job, family, friends, and have gotten HIV. People become like machines that exist for drugs and sex."

Staley, while agreeing with Dr. Lee's assessment, said harm reduction could help the user realize he needs to stop. Perhaps the most prevalent message that rose to the surface as community members shared their stories was that, as one former user noted, "crystal meth fills the need for men to connect with men, with disastrous results."

"I call my generation somewhat complacent. I was not touched by friends dying of AIDS," says Trevor P.

Voices reiterated the point that in urban centers, like New York and San Francisco, the gay community is disjointed. More often than not, the ideal is this buff, cut man seen in pornographic magazines – just like the man in the ad. But the reality is one of human imperfection and social alienation.

Crystal masks this reality in feelings of euphoria and a false sense of instant belongingness and intimacy.

And to think that residents of Harrisburg are removed from the problems of city life may be a trap, says Phil Goropoulos, CEO of the AIDS Community Alliance.

"There is definitely an increase in club drug activity in this area, and that is definitely a possibility that there is a link to new HIV infections. But I don't think people in this area view [drug use] as a risk," said Goropoulos.

Goropolous said that in the past year, rates of new HIV infections have doubled. "And being in a smaller town doesn't mean the community is connected at all, in fact, I think it's disjointed," he added. "There may be segments that are very connected, but people who are in the club drug scene may be here one night, then travel to Baltimore, then DC."

Goropolous said that in addition to the unsafe sexual behaviors crystal use spawns, there is a risk in "sharing cookers, needles, spoons, going to places where there are higher rates of HIV, and engaging in these same risky behaviors with people you don't know. People aren't aware, and don't necessarily take precautions."

He bemoaned what he views as a general state of complacency in the area regarding health issues. "I think there is a good likelihood that we are going to see a large number of new HIV infections in the area here, simply because the community has stopped talking about the disease," said Goropoulos.

The most effective way to battle crystal meth addiction may lie in finding healthy alternatives. In Harrisburg, the community can prevent a crystal meth epidemic by fostering community, by building something this town by the river already knows something about.

"I think forums would be important," said Goropoulos. "But it will take a larger stand to be effective. The reality right now is not uplifting, but there is hope, but we need to get people to realize that we need to start this dialogue.

Instead of destructive behaviors that lead to heart attacks, HIV infection, loss of job and family through intense paranoia, domestic violence and sex addiction, we can choose to show crystal for the evil that it is. Begin to talk to your friends about the dangers of crystal meth use. Let the ones you love know "tina" is not their friend.

City Confidential: All Dirt, No Filler

By Sophonda Cox

Alternative Central has eyes and ears roaming from Provincetown to Key West. No one is safe. Unlike Las Vegas, we do talk. City Confidential is an occasional column - all dirt, no filler.

Reese's Pieces? Vanity Fair's September cover gal Reese Witherspoon almost lost out to humpy Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps. The cover call was so close, the whole "l'affaire du speedo" was nearly an "unfair" vanity to Witherspoon. Apparently, Reese's pieces were already set to appear on the mag's cover as PR for the movie release by the same name (and it's namesake, after William Makepeace Thackeray's celebrated novel). She's a lead in indy-style makeover of Thackeray's Vanity Fair. But, when VF editor Graydon Carter saw photos of Phelps by acclaimed photographer Bruce Weber, he grabbed his, uh, editor's pencil, and pulled Witherspoon from her cover perch. Pissed, she sent in a phalanx of protectors who restored her cover image. Although eventually squelched, Carter proposed an oh-so-now-BiSex solution: Newsstands would receive Witherspoon covers while subscribers would get Phelps covers. I guess lots of homos read VF!

Chelsea Girls? Remember Andy Warhol's flick Chelsea Girls? Well, it's changed, sorta. Our roving eyes told us that Ricky Martin held court at a back table at Chelsea's in SEUDE nightclub. He watched the dance floor as gaggles of giggling girls (and boys) made their way over to the table and asked him to dance. He declined all offers. Meanwhile, 21-year-old Vili Fualaau, charmed at the age of 12 by Mary Kay Letourneau, was also holding his own that night, although she was recently released from a seven year sentence. Several men eagerly told him he was their hero. Touched by their words, he invited a few back to his Waldorf Astor room…

NYC to/from Bush Twins: Jenna, "the Party girl" – "We love you dearly, but you're just not hip," wrote one social columnist. From Barbara, "the smart one" – "Jenna and I are not really very political." Neither one is interested in joining the Armed forces to help free Iraq.

Blogging Off Daily? Blogging off daily can make you blind says a Catholic priest, err, I mean that's the general consensus among, oh, never mind. Fact is everyone, except moi, now has their own "blog" web site updated every 11 seconds. Here's my thought: With 24/7 news coverage by several non-stop cable news channels, there's more "air" time than there is news. Therefore, everything is news – or – nothing is news. We are a nation with no unexpressed thoughts.

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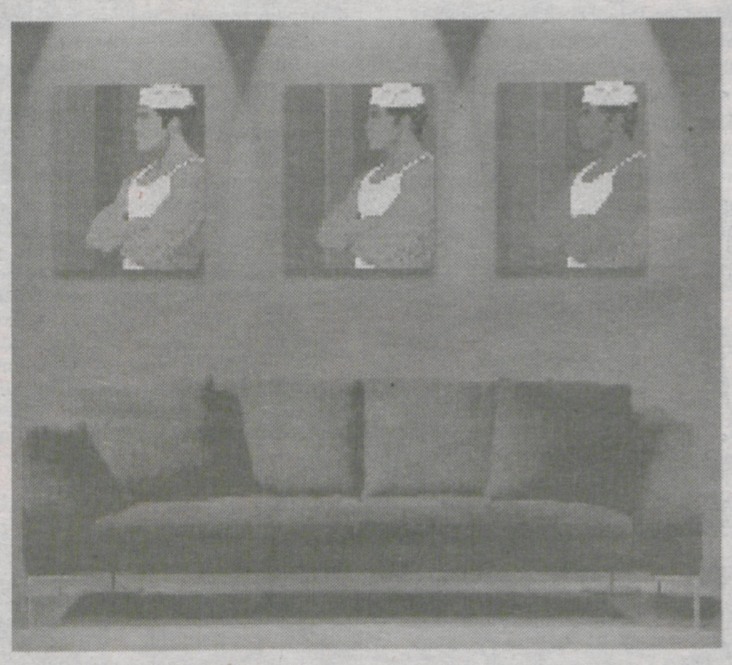

"Sailor," by Adam Scott Rote

"Gallery Saturday" Artist Reception

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November 20th
2nd Anniversary Reception
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Men's Health

Love at First Bite

by Frank Pizzoli

Are you to the point of packing extra clothing for business trips? One set is larger than normal so you have something to wear home?

In comparing the eating habits of 96 traveling salesmen to more active workers and leisure travelers, Johns Hopkins University found that traveling salesmen gained an average of 15 pounds in two years. That's three times more than any other group. Time for the treadmill sweetheart!

Your food choices while traveling make a difference. When given a choice: grainy cereal, or whole grain muffin, skim milk, and a banana; or an omelet and sausage, American Airlines' flyers chose the "less healthy" breakfast. Sixty percent of first class travelers and 76 percent of coach passengers select an omelet over oatmeal, according to the airline's food and beverage director. Frequent flyers are not going to get private flying lessons from the pilot eating that way.

Delta Airlines serves Blimpie sandwiches on some flights. Typically, an airline meal contains more than 1,000 calories, although the first class or special order gourmet meals can weigh in at about 3,500 calories. Hyatt Hotels rolled out a low-calorie menu, but only five percent of its guests ordered the diet meals. In a recent year, Los Angeles International Airport sold two million donuts and one million slices of pizza - and only 84,000 salads.

There is a conspiracy against healthy eating while on the road. Pizza delivery is available at many large-scale hotel chains. And if food can't be delivered, a business traveler can always raid those convenient little mini-bars or tiny refrigerators stuffed with calories galore. And then there are always vending machines in the cold hallways of hotels. Normally not perilous, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (Bethesda, MD) does report that in 1998 two people met their death when the vending machine they were shaking fell on them.

How's a guy to survive?

Keeping track of what and when you eat is basic to any food management program, say Miss Agnes Armstrong, RN and a certified weight control instructor with a little black chair and a whip. Miss Agnes with individuals who wanted to lose weight. "We make lists for almost every other aspect of our daily routines. Why not with food?" she observes. Actually, according to the Point of Purchase Advertising Institute, about 55 percent of supermarket shoppers write down their needs. "If we write down, or keep track of what food we buy, then why not advance to next step and monitor what we eat?" Miss Agnes asks.

If politics makes for strange bedfellows (and vice versa), then our eating habits make for strange outcomes also. "About 60 percent of us say we consume diet foods, but will not admit to dieting," Miss Armstrong observes. She also points out that our consumption of potato chips has increased 70 percent since 1980, about the same time that then-President Reagan declared ketchup a vegetable.

"If there is any wisdom attached to dieting, it involves a moderate outlook, making a plan which is realistic, therefore achievable," Miss Agnes says. "There really are no safe ways to lose large amounts of unwanted weight without shocking our metabolism into an unhealthy overdrive," she warns.

Self-acceptance is as much a part of the weight loss plan as any food time. "Would you rather balloon up and slim down over and over? Would you want to weigh 192 pounds during even numbered years and 157 pounds for odd numbered years? Or, would you prefer to accept yourself at about 170 something for consecutive years?" Miss Agnes asks.

It may not be "love at first bite'" with low-calorie foods, but there are satisfying ways to keep food interesting to your taste buds. Sampling a yard of weight loss magazines on the newsstand, readers quickly pick up the other dimensions of weight control. Experts advise to first establish a routine by changing your food choices. Change one meal at a time. Later you can focus on the longer haul. Once you begin eating right, you can wonder about why you ever ate poorly.

"Food is the great pretender. We solve arguments with food; we patch up relationships with chocolate sundaes. We reward or punish ourselves and sometimes others with food," Miss Agnes observes. She points to these to these psychological factors, and changing them if negative, to a more positive foundation for weight control.

In the end, be patient. "Above all else, be understanding of your needs and the needs of those around you trying to lose weight. There will be superb days filled with no pangs for a large pizza smothered in everything. There will be days filled with dismay, where we will curse perfectly harmless vegetables. "Have a sense of humor, too," she says, and "Smile, we want to see that broccoli in between your teeth."

Frank Pizzoli's articles appear in several nation magazines.

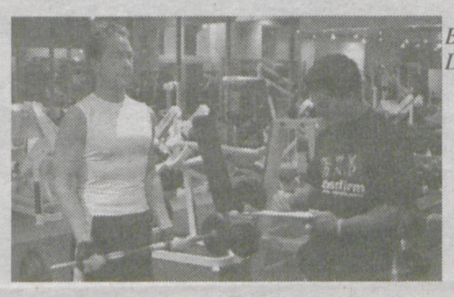
Fitness Firm's Brian Wolfe Talk about Exercise

Every year 100 million American's are motivated to get in shape, but by February, approximately 40% of the 100 million break their New Year's resolution and fall off the so-called "wagon', says Brian L. Wolfe M.S., Fitness Director at The Fitness Firm. It can take as little as missing one workout to sabotage ones fitness objectives. While reasons for failing vary, many Americans basically lack knowledge in many individuals that are consumed by fitness knowledge. Reading conflicting articles in health magazines of what works best along with opposing opinions of workout partners, cab all lead to perpetual frustration.

There is no need to research the latest scientific evidence, subscribe to countless health magazines or purchase fitness books and workout tapes to start a "new year, new you" workout. A common sense approach is all one needs not only start exercising and staying fit, but continue doing it long enough to reap the benefits.

Here are ten fitness tips that will help you stay motivated and stick with you New Year's resolution.

1. include all fitness aspects. A sound fitness plan incorporates the three basic components of exercise: cardiovascular fitness, resistance training and proper nutrition.
2. Set realistic goals. Don't set yourself up for failure. If your goal is weight loss, then the healthy rate at which one should expect to lose excess weight is approximately 1-2 pounds per week.
3. Motivate yourself. A favorite music CD can be great motivation tools to help you stay on track. If you stay motivated, you'll not only reach your goals, but also exceed them.
4. Make it fun. if you do something you enjoy, you will be more likely to stick with it. Exercise with a friend or in a group setting, such an aerobics class or a running club. If you're easily bored, listen to music or read a book or magazine.
5. Mix it up. Varying your exercise program with decrease the potential of plateaus and boredom.
6. Don't starve yourself. Becoming very hungry, ultimately leads to binging on foods that are usually high in fat and calories. If you eat five small meals throughout the day, you actually burn more calories your body is never put in a "starvation mode."
7. Develop a back-up plan. This will ensure that you get some exercise and decrease the possibility of getting out of the "exercise groove".
8. Plan your days in the gym ahead of time. Schedule your workout routines just as you would schedule a meeting at work.
9. Expect gain, not pain. The old saying "no pain, no gain" is outdated and replaced with the modern version "no train, no gain". Fell like you're working , but don't push yourself to the point of pain.
10. Make time to exercise. If the President can set aside 30 minutes per day to exercise, chances are you can to.



Brian L. Wolfe M.S., Fitness Director at The Fitness Firm

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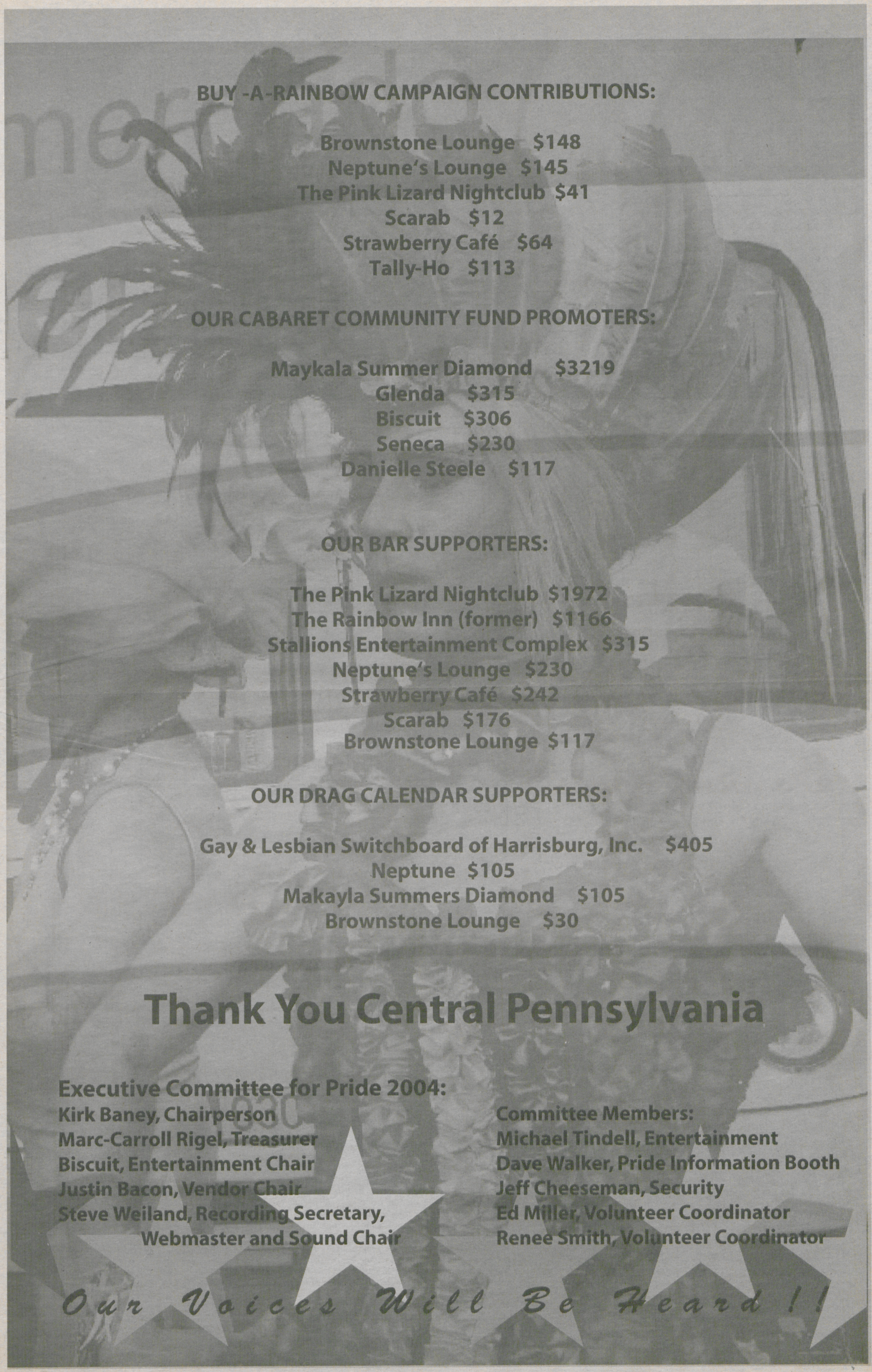

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Our Voices Will Be Heard!!

Transgender Corner:

Choosing Your Gender?

Written by an Alternative Central reader

Chatting with a friend recently, she asked if I could have predetermined my gender, would I have chosen differently? I gave her my answer quickly: I was given the gift of identifying with the opposite gender. I also have the ability to understand life and its situations from both sides of the gender fence.

During the course of 37 soul-searching years, I learned to and conditioned myself to be a man. At times, it was a struggle but I always overcame the pitfalls of being trapped in a man's body living in a very conservative man's world. I also had successes as a man but at the same time was miserable and something deep within told me there was a better life ahead. I needed to embrace the gift of having two spirits, but unfortunately I always viewed my gift as a curse based on other's tragedies. Consequently, I tried everything humanly possible to extricate myself from those feelings.

Making the journey into an incredibly amazing new world seemed so strange and distant, but yet so right. However, the roadmap to arriving there required unraveling everything built up around my protective shell. It took me a few years but one magical day, the doors of self-acceptance burst open with a vengeance. I was finally starting over. Now had to unlearn and then reinvent my conditionings. I wanted to discover my true self. The next two years were the best two years of my life. At least I thought so.

During my discovery of this exiting new world, numerous beautiful things occurred, too numerous to list here. After two years, I reached my peak of discovering love and happiness. That's when everything began to unravel in a constructive way.

I maintained tough skin during my transition and surrounded myself with some amazing friends who are supportive and help to eliminate negativity from my life. They provided me with the strength to overcome the next phase of my unraveling.

My newly discovered plateful of personal change included losing some family members, ending a long-term relationship, selling my safe haven and changing jobs. All these events happened within three months. Everything came together and the remaining pieces to my life's puzzle now were assembling into a beautiful picture. I realized during this very painful three-month period that I had finally arrived and at another special period in my life. That special period involves reaching my ultimate goal - a couple of very expensive physical alterations not covered under health insurance. But I have planned and am prepared. I now live in a more friendly area, met some beautiful friends and am discovering new places and venues every day.

So, to answer her question: The actual (physical) change has not occurred yet. After gaining self-acceptance, I may have transitioned sooner, but I'm the person who got me here, remarkably unscathed. Changing any sooner may have been a disaster.

Transgender Health Alliance Forms

The Transgender Health Alliance is a new and growing international association of mental health, medical and allied health professionals within the transgender community.

The alliance's mission is to "advocate for competent, caring and comprehensive health care for the transgender community. The new organization will promote health education in the transgender, professional, and greater community. The group also will advocate to health industry and government agencies for access to care and health insurance coverage for transgender health needs.

Especially important is the alliance's goal of establishing a referral network of trans friendly health care providers and a regular source of transgender health information.

The alliance welcomes any trans-identified health professionals who may be interested in networking with and sharing their ideas and experience with trans colleagues.

Information available from:
Carol F. Milazzo, MD transhealthprofessionals owner@yahoogroups.com
Lesli Forer, MD Transgender Health Alliance <http://www.geocities.com/transhealthalliance/>

Retirement Villages continued

looking for retirement villages and real estate opportunities that treat them with dignity.

"Senior housing appears to be a very dynamic and developing area in the lgbt community," says Gerard Koskovich, Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network. "As the baby-boom generation starts to hit its 50s, a lot of openly lgbt people are looking to the future, wondering where they're going to live, and starting to hope for and make plans for safe, respectful housing that will be available for them when they want it as elders."

Various estimates, including one by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, put the number of homosexuals in America who are older than 65 at 1 million to 3 million.

Very few retirement spots catering particularly to gays and lesbians exist anywhere at the moment. Most have grown up spontaneously. Although an estimated 10 pink retirement projects are planned to open in a few years—in such cities as Boston, Dallas, and San Francisco—investors have historically been chilly to the idea.

Gray & Gay?

Some communities want older gays.

"It's just wonderful to be able to take a walk and hold hands," said Edward Kobee, 69, a burly retired naval weapons systems analyst who moved to Florida's Palms of Manasota last December from Laurel, Md. Palms is no ordinary, sun-soaked Florida retirement community of tanned seniors in shorts padding around tile-roofed villas. The place opened in 1999 with 21 homes, and a second phase has added another 44.

His partner of 17 years nodded his agreement. "We didn't want to go back in the closet just to be in a retirement community," said Alfred Usack, 73, a retired CIA analyst with a trim white mustache who lived in the Washington area for 46 years. "We'd had enough of that."

Largely unnoticed amid the uproar and invective over same-sex marriage, gay developers, activists and entrepreneurs are building an archipelago of gay retirement communities across the Sun Belt.

One project underway is a $32 million resort in central Santa Fe, N.M. The developer likens it to a boutique hotel with extensive medical care facilities and outlying cottages, townhouses and apartments. Another project involves a 165-acre tract in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina where 90 lots are set amid streams and walking trails. In Hollywood, developers are scoping out a five-story building for low-income gay and lesbian seniors. An apartment building in midtown Phoenix renovated from a hotel backed in the 1970s by Cary Grant is also looking to attract aging queers.

"Obviously it's something everybody's been dreaming of," said Joy Silver, the developer and driving force behind Rainbow Vision, the resort in Santa Fe, which expects to break ground in July on one of the grander projects in the works.

Silver, a New Yorker who moved to Santa Fe in 1998, said more than 100 people have put down deposits of $1,000 and $500 for the planned 146 cottages, townhouses and apartments. "Can you imagine? A hundred people on the waiting list and we don't even have a shovel in the ground yet," said Silver, 48.

"Large companies that own chains of housing for the elderly are going to see this as a niche market, and you'll see more traditional types of facilities advertising they have a gay wing or a floor," said Jean Quam, a professor of social work at the University of Minnesota and a lesbian who has written widely on the subject. "It's just a matter of time."

Who will build central Pennsylvania's first gay and lesbian friendly retirement village?

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6	Saturday	8 PM	Men's Love or Lust Party
10	Wednesday	7 PM	Men's Discussion Group
13	Saturday	6 PM	Wine Tasting Party
18	Thursday	7 PM	Movie Night
19	Friday	8 PM	Common Roads Night
20	Saturday	9 PM	Promotion at Stallions
21	Sunday	4 PM	Women's Book Club
26	Friday	10 AM	Open Early - Fall Sale
		7 PM	Women's Meet & Greet
27	Saturday	8 PM	Queer As Folk Party
DECEMBER			
2	Thursday	7 PM	Movie Night
4	Saturday	All Day	Coffee House Party
8	Wednesday	7 PM	Men's Discussion Group
11	Saturday	8 PM	Women's Love or Lust
12	Sunday	4 PM	Women's Book Club
16	Thursday	7 PM	Movie Night
18	Saturday	9 PM	Promotion at Stallions

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...AND LEAVE THE TOPICS OF LOUD ROCK MUSIC, KIDS ON SKATEBOARDS, AND SMALL PRINT IN NEWSPAPERS FOR ANOTHER DAY.
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FAB continued

Additional hors d'oeuvres will be offered from beautifully designed displays including an assortment especially selected for our Vegan and Vegetarian guests.

One of the highlights of the evening will be the awards presentation recognizing an individual or individuals who have made a difference in our community. If you would like to nominate an individual visit the FAB website at www.fab-org to download a nomination form.

Continue partying after the main event at two "after parties" held right at the Strand. Dance your pumps or tux off at the Dance Party featuring dance tunes to rattle your bones. Or chill to the melodious sounds of the Carmitchell Sisters featuring Bobbi Carmitchell. Funny Girl Ragsdale Dishes Popular from HBO specials, television, and film, our special entertainment is comedian Georgia Ragsdale, one of the most exciting talents emerging from the ranks of gay comics. She brings to comic life experiences both men and women share. Her stand-up comedy leaves audiences gasping for breath – you will not be disappointed. "Wave Babes" is Ragsdale's latest project. She worked as writer, producer and lead actress.

FAB Auction

Silent Auction items are on display all evening for bidding. Auction items are provided by members of the lgbt community and friends of the community, amny of whom have donated items for many consecutive years. Items donated include a variety of eclectic and one-of-a-kind things -weekend get away packages to hand-painted stemware. Individuals or businesses looking to donate an auction item can go to www.fab-org for a donation sheet.

$5,000 Prize

This year FAB offers $100 raffle tickets to 100 individuals. Buyers will be donating to the lgbt community. Buyers have a 1-in-100 chance of winning a $5,000 cash prize. Buyers do not need to be present to win. Tickets are available through www.fab-pa.org. Don't delay. Tickets are expected to sell quickly.

FAB Benefits Locally

Proceeds from FAB 2004 will benefit organizations serving the central Pennsylvania's lgbt community. All money raised by FAB since 1999 has gone to The Equity for Gays and Lesbians Partnership (EGAL) Fund, a special project of the Greater Harrisburg Foundation that grants funds to local organizations serving the lgbt community.

Funds raised have benefited several area organizations including The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Common Roads youth group, SPARC (Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition), and The Woman's Circle.

Theatre Roundup

Open Stage Runs "Proof" and "A Christmas Carol"

Open Stage of Harrisburg, 223 Walnut Street, will run two shows during November and December: "Proof" and "A Christmas Carol."

Founded by Don and Anne Alsedek and Marianne Fischer, this professional, nonprofit regional theatre is dedicated to presenting thought-provoking plays and providing educational outreach programs.

Proof

Winner of the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for drama and the 2001 Tony Award, "Proof" is showing Oct. 29 through Nov. 21. Written by David Auburn and directed by James B. Nicola, this play is billed as "romantic, funny, mysterious and intelligent." The play focuses on the relationship between genius and madness, as a young woman learns how much of each she will inherit from her father. Robert is a gifted mathematician who eventually goes insane. Upon his death, a former student sifts through the notebooks Robert left behind and discovers what seems to be a last glimpse of brilliance: a solved theorem that has remained unsolved for many years. Robert's daughter Catherine claims the work is actually hers, but her sister Claire believes the work is their father's and that Catherine is "unstable." Whose mind produced the work of genius? Will Catherine's mind suffer the same fate as her father's?

Christmas Carol

The fifth annual presentation of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" is offered Dec. 3-26.

Join Ebenezer Scrooge as he is taught to appreciate the Christmas spirit by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. Adapted by Edward Alsedek, this classic tale is always a good choice to bring out the holiday spirit in the Scroogiest heart.

Single tickets are $22. The price is $18 per ticket for senior citizens and students. Group prices available for parties of 10 or more. Reservations: 717-232-6736.

Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre Features "Spirit of the Season"

The Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, 510 Centerville Road, Lancaster has been an entertainment staple, offering eight to 10 shows annually. They combine professional Broadway performances with hearty buffet-style meals.

Their actors are selected from national auditions held in New York City, Arizona and Florida and at the Southeastern Theatre Conference, the National Dinner Theatre Association and the United Professional Theatre Association. There also are approximately three to five regional performers in each show.

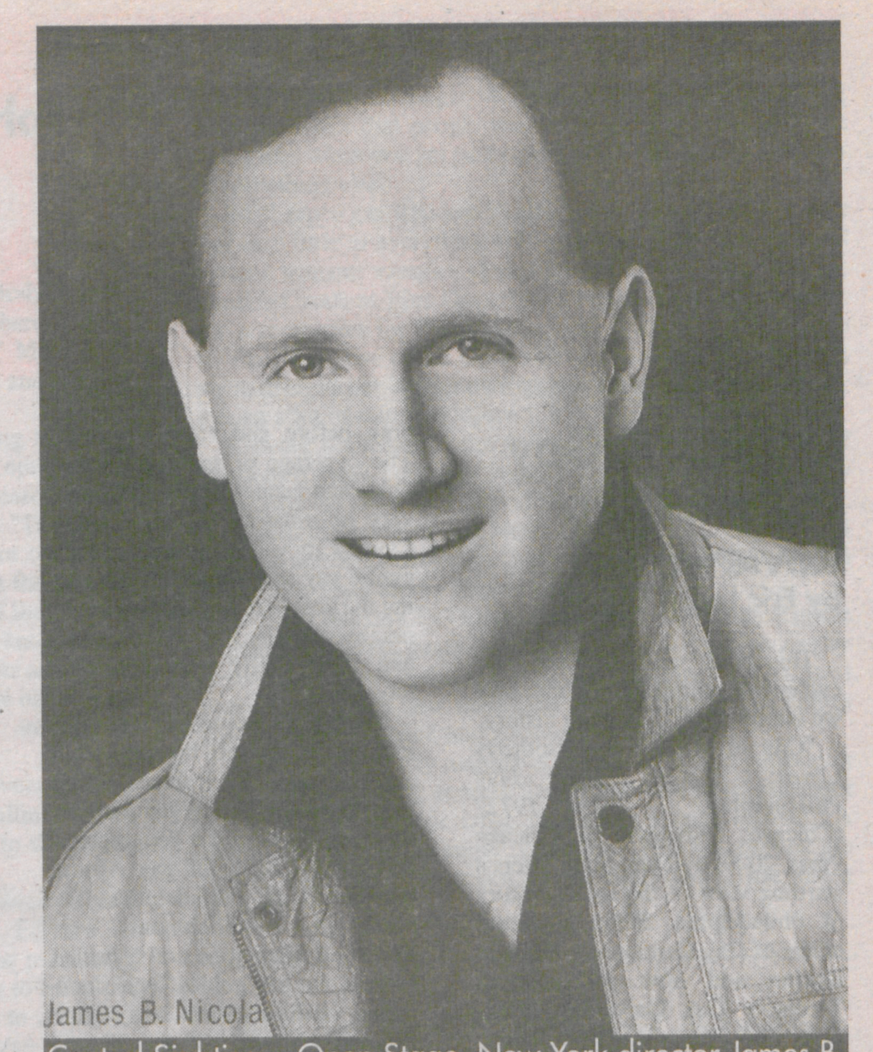
Spirit of the Season

Dutch Apple features "Spirit of the Season" Nov. 4 - Dec. 23. Take a shopping break and celebrate the holiday season with song and dance numbers suitable for the whole family.

Las Vegas Legends

From Dec. 30 through Feb. 12, 2005, dress in your sequined best for "Las Vegas Legends." This star-studded tribute to the city of lights recalls the Strip's golden days. Great songs include "Viva Las Vegas," "Mac the Knife," "Copacabana," "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'," "The Lady is a Tramp," "Cabaret," "It's Not Unusual," "Delilah," "Crazy," "What's New Pussycat," "There's No Business Like Show Business," "Tie A Yellow Ribbon," "The Beat Goes On," and many others.

Tickets $40 Tues. – Fri. evenings; $42 Sat. evenings; $36.50 matinee. The theatre is wheelchair accessible. Hearing devices available. Show times: www.dutchapple.com or 717-898-1900.



James B. Nicola

Central Sighting – Open Stage New York director James B. Nicola recently directed Open Stage's "Proof." He is best known for staging the revival of the Pulitzer prize-winning play "Miss Lulu Bett." Nicola's book, "Playing the Audience" was recently chosen by Choice Magazine as one of the best academic books of 2003. As a composer, Nicola scored Tony Kushner production of The Tempest.

Clubs

Holiday Gift Ideas:

DJ Barry's World of Music

Stallion's DJ Barry offers insights on radio, concerts, club music, and music news.

It's time once again to tell you what is happening in the music scene.

Club Hits

Popular all around the country in the club scene is "Cha Cha Heels" by Rosabel, featuring the vocal talents of Jeanie Tracy. Every summer there is one song that comes along that clubs will play to death and this is one of them. With randomly intense female vocals and a deep rolling beat, there is no reason not to get up and move your feet.

Another hot club song and a favorite of mine is "Hear My Name" by Armand Van Helden. This is just one of those repetitious and happy beat songs that are fun to dance to. Also listen for his other song "My My MY" which is a little more on the serious side of house music.

The song "Time" by Murk is another club scorcher. Oscar Gaeton & Ralph Falcon are the two talents behind this song. The song "Get Up, Stand Up" by Stellar Project is another hot tune in the clubs. This team has remixed for other artists and now has released their own song. If you like strong female vocals, then listen for Reina and "If I Close My Eyes." Reina has been hot on the club scene for a few years now. She never seems to release enough of her quality dance music.

RuPaul's Back!

Back in the mainstream again is dance diva drag queen Rupaul with a new CD called "Red Hot." The first single and club song is called "Looking Good Feeling Gorgeous." The CD is full of fun, interesting, and entertaining songs. The music ranges from club to disco and is a good CD to have in your collection.

Holiday CD Collections

Every year around this time we see a lot of greatest hits collections being released. Why? Greatest hits collections are an easy way for you to make some fast gift buying decisions.

Britney Spears Greatest Hits

Now at your favorite music store is the CD "My Prerogative" by Britney Spears. If you're a Britney fan, this CD is for you. This greatest hits CD features all the hits she ever had plus more. The ever so talented performer Seal has a hit CD. If you're into dance, check out Groove Armada or Thrill Kill Kult for a little heavier sound.

Jimmy Buffet's Greatest Hits

For a getaway beach sound there is Jimmy Buffet's greatest hits. If country is your thing then there is a hand full. Toby Keith and Brooks & Dune both have out their "Greatest Hits Collections 2" on the shelves in time for Christmas. The country legend George Jones and also superstar Shania Twain will have collections released. Amy Grant has her hits as well as rocker John Mellencamp.

Holiday Music

Not far off is the holiday season and nothing will get you more in the mood then holiday music. This years holiday releases can fill your listening pleasures from country to rock to almost anything else. There is the ever so sexy Jessica Simpson with her CD "Re-Joice."

For a soulful sound try Vanessa Williams and her CD "Silver and Gold" Maybe you like that jazzy sound of holiday music. Then check out the crooner Chris Isaak for his Christmas offering. The pop rock group Heart will release the CD "Lovemonger's Christmas."

American Idol Fans

If your a fan of the American Idol television show then your in luck this Christmas. Everyone's favorite Clay Aiken and Ruben Studdard will each have their own release. Do you remember the horrible singer William Hung? He was made fun of and never made it onto the show but then got to release a CD anyway. Well, he will get fifteen more minutes of fame with this holiday season when he releases "Hung for the Holidays."

Mannheim Steamroller

Each and every year you can count on a new CD from Mannheim Steamroller and this one is called "Celebration." One of my favorites every year is the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. The new CD is entitled "The Lost Christmas Eve" featuring their trademark of symphonic rock. This group takes their classical music and they fuses it with R&B and rock. The sound from this orchestra is enjoyable and chilling and you won't even realize your listening to classical music.

Polar Express Soundtrack

Don't forget about the soundtrack for the animated movie "Polar Express." This movie features songs from Josh Croban, Steven Tyler from Aerosmith as well as many other classic artists. Even the actor Tom Hanks that lends his voice for this animated movie gets a chance to sing for the holiday.

Local Authors, Lesbian Titles

Lesbian & Gay Philadelphia Reviewed

by Eric Ledell Smith

This book will raise not only eyebrows, but questions about how we interpret gay American history.

"City of Sisterly and Brotherly Loves: Lesbian and Gay Philadelphia, 1945-1972" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000) by Marc Stein offers a startling view of the social history of Philadelphia. Stein, a former editor of Gay Community News in Boston and now professor at Toronto's York University, draws upon oral history, archives, newspapers—both straight and gay/lesbian—and censuses to produce a postwar history of Philadelphia's gay community.

Stein examines everyday life, public cultures, and gay politics before and after Stonewall. The Stonewall Riot of June 28, 1969 in New York City marked the beginning of the modern gay and lesbian liberation movement in America. As the book subtitle says, Stein's book covers the period between 1945 and 1972, when Philadelphia had its first "gay pride" parade.

The book is full of recollections by gay men and lesbians about growing up gay in Philadelphia both before and after Stonewall. The coverage of same-sex households and venues in Philadelphia is very informative and astonishing. Center City was at the heart of most public gay and lesbian culture during the post-war era, although other neighborhoods like Germantown and West Philly were important too.

The book's strength is its insight into the relationship between white and black gays and lesbians, a topic too often neglected in gay journals. Stein has produced a geographical and social profile of gay African Americans in Philadelphia. The black gay establishments were identified using upon oral histories, lesbian and gay guides, legal documents, media accounts, and organizational records. "Of the 28 predominately African American sites, 43% were in Center City, 18% were in the South Philly border tracts, and 11% were in the West Philly zone." (p. 56)

In the 1950s and 1960s, blacks patronized two social clubs that met in private homes: the Mox-Nix and the West Set. But African Americans also had their own bars. These included the African Room near the Locust Strip, and Spider Kelly's near Market Street. Yet there were also numerous "mixed" or interracial clubs.

Stein shows that the gay community drew upon its African American members for inspiration and support. Many of the queens at the drag balls were African American. At the June 11, 1972 Gay Pride Parade in Philadelphia, black gays and lesbians made up as many as one-fourth of all the marchers. Stein suggests that early Gay Pride buttons—Gay is Good—may have been modeled on the slogan "Black is Beautiful" slogan. (p. 292) The discussion of African Americans within Philadelphia's gay subculture demonstrates that it is simultaneously a diverse and divisive one.

An important aspect of the book is its treatment of public culture and public policy. Particularly, the chapter on the controversy over the naming of the Walt Whitman Bridge (between Philadelphia and Camden, New Jersey) is superb. The Whitman controversy was an open public discussion about same-sex identities and its moral, political, and religious implications. Among religious denominations, Catholics led the protest against naming the bridge for Whitman, a noted homosexual literary figure. Stein shows how this episode and the actions of city officials mobilized Philadelphia's gays and lesbians. When he was district attorney in Philadelphia, Edward Rendell allegedly helped raid a gay bookstore. When he was police commissioner, former Mayor Frank Rizzo ordered many raids on gay and lesbian bars. Both Rizzo and Rendell, however, eventually became more "gay-friendly."

This book breaks new ground in focusing upon the gay and lesbian community in a city other than San Francisco or New York. It also breaks new ground in providing documentation about how African Americans played a pivotal role in gay history.

Local Author

Plato and Popcorn Explodes Mind

Finally, a cine writer who digs below the visual. When "Waking Life" was the screen rage, I sampled 11 reviewers – all of whom wrote about the "visuals." Not a word about the screenplay's content.

William G. Smith enters from a back lot with a solution. His "Plato and Popcorn: A Philosopher's Guide to 75 Thought-Provoking Movies" explores a cacophony of voices within 18 film categories. Each film he selects for inclusion in the book is followed by a set of suggested "discussion questions" to be read, Smith suggests, only after seeing each film.

Film categories include: civil disobedience, gay rights, fate and determinism, death, war, sexism and women's issues, the holocaust, Jesus, Muhammad – even Tammy Faye.

My only objection is that the book doesn't suggest a single musical. By their storylines, musicals embody as much depth as do Smith's choices. Otherwise, we're left asking: Why do we tell our best stories about our worst behaviors? Or, as indie movie gal-pal Agnes says," The problem with the world today is they're not making enough musicals."

$35 from McFarland books - http://www.mcfarlandpub.com/book-2.php?isbn=0-7864-1878-8

Reviewed by Frank Prizzoli.

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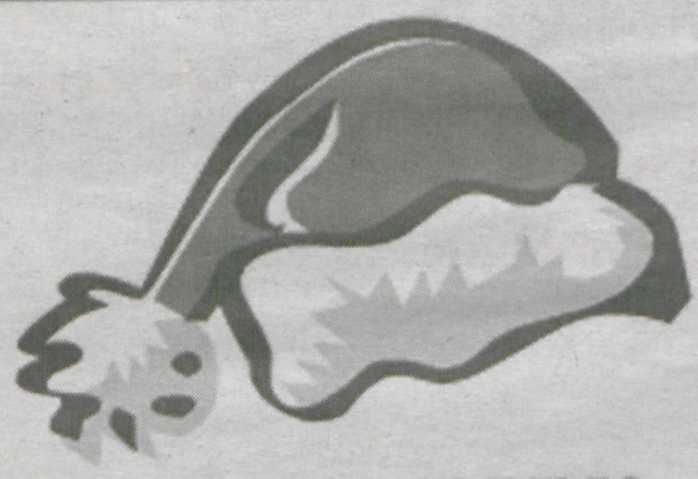

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Holiday Gifts

"The Mirror of Love"
Gay History in Words & Images

A new book by Alan Moore and Jose Villarrubia, with an Introduction by Harrisburg-popular David Drake, "The Mirror of Love" is a "unique, beautiful and immensely powerful marriage of voice and vision, fact and feeling. Part testament, part celebration, it belongs on everybody's bedside table, gay, straight, or undecided. Wonderful," says Clive Barker.

From Sappho to Stonewall, this epic poem in prose by multi-award-winning British author Alan Moore is a passionate love letter that lyrically recounts the triumph of same-sex love through the centuries. Gorgeously illustrating Moore's journey are forty full-color images by internationally renowned fine arts photographer Jose Villarrubia.

Margaret Cho says, "Not only does "Mirror" elegantly and profoundly tell our history, it gives us a perfect reflection of our immense beauty. Moore and Villarrubia weave a remarkable tapestry, in words and images capturing with precision the ecclesiastical and ecstatic capabilities of the human heart."

David Drake, from a cabin in Sheffield, Maine, where he was working on a summer stock presentation of the play, "Thief River" for the Barrington Stage Company, said "Politically in the book and in the play, it was part of the reaction to what was going on in England in the late 1980s, early 1990s, and over here with the Reagan/Bush years, the rise of Jesse Helms and censorship. It provoked a lot of artists like myself to be heard because there was a lot of opposition to our voices." Like now.

In hardback, "The Mirror of Love" is a Top Shelf publication which can be purchased at honorable bookstores as well as from amazon.com.

http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/1891830457/qid=1087972807/sr=1-1/ref=sr_1_1/102-0363951-2349758?v=glance&s=books

Lesbian Book Themes Hot for Holidays

By Robert Dahlin
Publisher's Weekly

There's so much vitality now in the gay and lesbian market," says Carroll & Graf editor Don Weise. "There is definitely a gay/lesbian book community in place." Many new titles mentioned below focus on "lesbian" themes and signal a hot holiday market.

Although not everyone involved in publishing books of interest to lgbt readers is equally enthusiastic, optimism is clearly the norm. "We keep selling more and more books," says Felice Newman, copublisher of Cleis Books. "The industry has been through a lot of difficult times, a lot of reshuffling. But even though we read news reports that the number of readers in this country is shrinking because of the Internet and new forms of entertainment, our readership keeps growing. Part of the reason is that it has become easier and easier for gay and lesbian readers everywhere to find the books they want to read-through both better distribution and online sales."

Cleis is thus happily approaching its 25th anniversary, as is Alyson Books, where marketing manager Dan Cullinane says, "We've been having a really good year, thanks to the books we've been publishing."

Among the newest houses specializing in lesbian-interest subjects is Bywater Books in Ann Arbor, Mich. Editor J.M. Redmann says, "Bywater is just starting up in the publishing world, with our first books out this fall. We plan to bring out four books next spring and four next fall, and to do 10-12 books for 2006. To encourage lesbian writers, we've created a fiction contest, with a top prize of $1,000 and publication by Bywater."

"We're in our fourth year," says Andrew McBeth, publisher at Green Candy Press in San Francis co, "and we're up to four to seven gay titles a year. One of the trends I've noticed is that despite all the gay guys you see on TV and despite all the stories about gay culture being popular, it's increasingly difficult to sell books, so one of our primary focuses is on more literate erotica in paperback, like The Sperm Engine by Stephen Greco."

Pointing out what is even more important than format, however, Scognamiglio identifies what has become a primary consideration in acquiring books for this market. "We've found that a novel with a gay protagonist will sell better than a book that contains exclusively gay characters," he says, "which is why we've done well with novels like The World of Normal Boys by Karl Soehnlein, The Trouble Boy by Tom Dolby and Leave Myself Behind by Bart Yates."

Similarly, Alyson's Cullinane notes, "Years ago, a gay plot was enough, but no longer. We have to publish interesting, fun, exciting books that people want to read. When you get past being gay, when you get past coming out, you have to move on to something else.

We're like a gay Random House, we publish 50 books a year and do a little of everything-self-help books; mysteries geared toward women; vampire stories geared toward men; erotica; memoirs, such as Blue Days, Black Nights by Ron Nyswaner, the screenwriter for Philadelphia, and Midnight at the Palace by Pam Tent, one of the Cockettes. It's hardly news, but what we're doing is putting our own spin on things, putting the queer eye on a lot of different topics."

Raphael Kadushin, senior acquiring editor at University of Wisconsin Press, concurs. "We've had a very good spring with Wonderlands: Good Gay Travel Writing [edited by Kadushin], A Passion to Preserve: Gay Men as Keepers of Culture by Will Fellows and Wrestling with God and Men: Homosexuality in the Jewish Tradition by Steven Greenberg.

At Bella Books, COO Linda Hill notes, "The romance genre continues to outsell general fiction, mystery and sci fi books by two or three times. I think, for us, our challenge over the next year is to develop new marketing and promotional strategies that allow us to stretch and grow as a publisher.

That may mean any number of things, including publishing more lesbian-themed general fiction that would not fit under the traditional romance label, publishing lesbian-themed YA fiction and publishing some nonfiction." Hill reports that the house's new line of erotica, Bella After Dark, has taken off well.

Apprentices continued

Bucks County woman, middle-30s: He just ... he has so many businesses and so much money. I want to be close to him, to work with him, to learn how he does it. Because I think I've got what it takes to do it too. Not everyone realizes that.

Real estate man, low 30s: I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Trump a couple of times in person, very briefly, in the course of my work. He exhibits this unique ... joie de vivre ... this magnetism. He just draws people to him. I feel like if I was working close to him, I'd be able to put in the extra hour, write the extra memo. He has this drive that reflects onto those around him.

But then there was the scruffy young man, mid-20s: At my last job, they didn_t give me the promotion I wanted. So I was like screw you, I'll go start my own company. But in the back of my head, I_ve always wondered whether I could cut it in a more competitive environment.

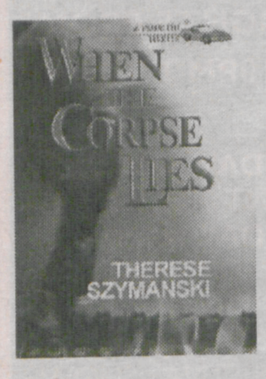
Interviewer: Why don't you think you got the job?

Young Man: Well, they did offer me another job. I don't really know. Maybe I scowled too much? t this point he chuckled. No one joined in.

Originally published The Philadelphia Independent

BOOK Review

Information provided by Forever Books, 41 N. Front Street, Steelton (939-5507), Central PA's only gay & lesbian bookstore.



When the Corpse Lies

Author: Therese Szymanski

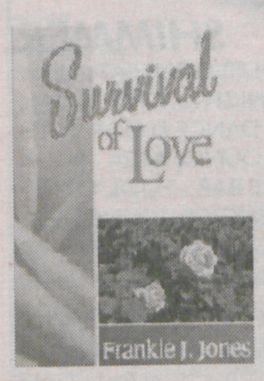
Bad- Girl Brett Higgins is used to walking up next to a beautiful women she hardly knows. Problem is, this one's dead.

Tough, sexy, and dangerous, former underworld figure Brett Higgins knows the dark side of desire. But thanks to the love of ex-policewomen Allie Sullivan, all that has changed. Once of great interest to the Vice Squad, Brett's adult entertainment business is now completely legit. And her only personal vice is a penchant for steamy cyber-sex. But if keeping her hands on the keyboard keeps them off other women, that's better that cheating, right?

Mindjacker

Author: Jonathan Asche

Just making direct eye contact, Lucas has direct access into a persons mind, turning his wishes into commands. It's a power the government wants to harness for its own means, but Lucas' lust for freedom cannot be contained. Living life on the run, Lucas uses his extraordinary gift to prey upon straight men for their money and to satisfy his own carnal appetites, knowing his embarrassed victims will never report his crimes.

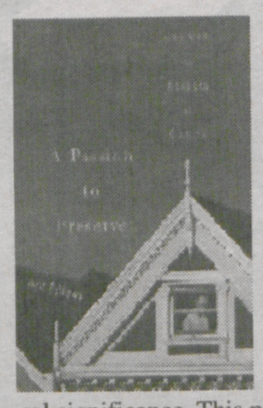


Survival of Love

Author: Frankie J. Jones

What do you do when you fall in love with your best friends daughter?

The last time Jody met Denise's daughter, Ellen was nothing more than a seventeen-year-old whiney, spoiled brat. So when Debbie announces that the now twenty-six-year-old Ellen is returning home with a broken heart, Jody can't help feeling a total lack of sympathy for the younger women. But then Denise tells Jody that Ellen has confided that she's a lesbian...and who better that Jody to take Ellen under her wing and show her the lesbian life of San Antonio?



A Passion to Preserve:
Gay Men as Keepers of Culture

Author: Will Fellows

From large cities to rural communities, gay men have long been impassioned pioneers as keepers if culture: rescuing and restoring decrepit buildings, revitalizing blighted neighborhoods, saving artifacts and documents of historical significance. This penchant to preserve, though widely observed, is typically ignored or dismissed as a stereotypical gay cliché, even by many gay men themselves. A Passion to Preserve explores this authentic and complex dimension of gay men's lives by profiling early and contemporary preservationists from throughout the United States.

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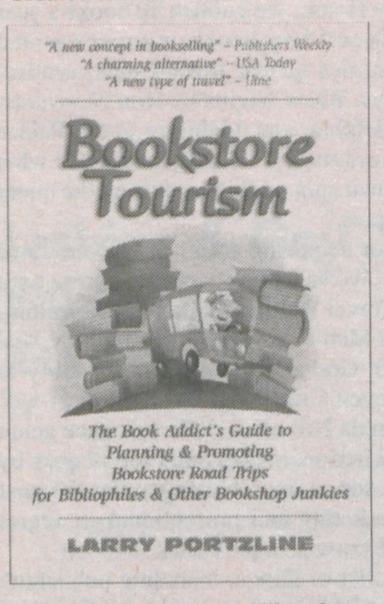
Local Author
"Bookstore Tourism"

by Larry Portzline
Creates Travel Niche


"A new concept in bookselling" – Publishers Weekly
"A charming alternative" – USA Today
"A new type of travel" – Time
Bookstore Tourism
The Book Addict's Guide to Planning & Promoting Bookstore Road Trips for Bibliophiles & Other Bookshop Junkies
LARRY PORTZLINE

The grassroots "bookstore tourism" rage has spawned a book of its own: "Bookstore Tourism: The Book Addict's Guide to Planning & Promoting Bookstore Road Trips for Bibliophiles & Other Bookshop Junkies" by local author Larry Portzline.

In September, he and PHASE literary magazine publisher Ann Stewart led a successful Harrisburg-area bookstore tour. USA Today called the idea "a charming alternative" when it selected Portzline's website, BookstoreTourism.com, as a "hot site" in May. Publishers Weekly said it "might be the beginning of a new concept in bookselling." Destinations, a leading publication in the motor coach industry, called the Bookstore Tourism model "a tremendous market." The American Booksellers Association acknowledged it as "a new grassroots effort to support independent booksellers."

Portzline created the "bookstore tourism" concept and says the book's goal "promotes and supports independent bookstores by marketing them as tourist destinations." Released last month, the book urges booklovers across the nation to plan "bookstore road trips" with friends, organizations, and economic development agencies.

"The idea is to encourage booklovers to organize day-trips and other literary outings to cities and towns with fun, interesting and unique bookstores that people in their own communities may not get to visit regularly," said Portzline. "It can work in the other direction, too. People in your town - your local booksellers, business associations, visitors' bureau or economic development agencies - can create ways to attract groups of readers to your community for a day of browsing, touring and other book-related activities."

Between July 2003 and June 2004, Portzline led six sold-out "bookstore adventures" to New York City and Washington, D.C. for two colleges in central Pennsylvania. Since launching the project, he's received countless inquiries and expressions of support from people in the bookselling, publishing and travel industries, from educators, libraries and colleges, from book festival and "One Book" organizers, and from booklovers everywhere eager to get involved.

"Too many indie bookstores are closing their doors, primarily because of heavy competition from chain stores and online booksellers," Portzline said. "Loading booklovers onto a bus and taking them to towns with great bookshops is one way to reverse that trend. It's educational and fun, it promotes reading and literacy, it supports travel and tourism, and it brings together people who share a love of books and the written word. It also encourages economic development and provides outreach opportunities for many different kinds of groups, organizations and schools. Most important, it raises awareness about independent bookstores and helps them stay open."

"Bookstore Tourism" covers the basics of planning and promoting a bookstore road trip, including how to do the necessary research, arrange transportation, and publicizing the event. The book is available at independent bookstores and as a free download on BookstoreTourism.com. "Anyone will be able to download the book, view it on their computer, and e-mail the link to family, friends and other booklovers," he said. "I hope they'll then be inspired to buy the book, but my primary goal is to spread the word however I can and encourage people to take ownership of the idea and adapt it to suit their own interests and needs." Contact Portzline; 717-541-0710.

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Filmmaking Tax Breaks Offered

New York state lawmakers approved the first tax credit to benefit film and television productions in their state. Industry watchers says the incentive will lure more film productions to the city and state, countering the flight of projects to Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal.

The legislation commits the state to contributing $25 million annually for four years - a total of $100 million – by offering a 10% tax credit on so-called below-the-line production costs, largely for blue-collar technicians and crew members. Actors' wages and the cost of other creative work like scriptwriting are not included.

The measure also permits New York City to contribute another $12.5 million annually to the tax credit program, "sweetening the pot and helping to level the playing field for the city," said Michael N. Gianaris, Queens assemblyman who vigorously pushed for the tax credits.

Under the provisions of the new legislation, companies shooting 75 percent of their productions in New York State would be eligible to apply for benefits under the first-come, first-served program. It would apply only to film and television productions, not commercials.

Approval of the tax credit "would counter runaway productions," said Stuart Match Suna, president of Silvercup Studios in Long Island City, where series including "The Sopranos" and "Hope and Faith" are made. "It will help to counter the benefit programs in Canada, and make us more competitive with California."

Big apple filmmaking is a $5.1 billion industry that employs more than 100,000 people and drives 5,000 production businesses.

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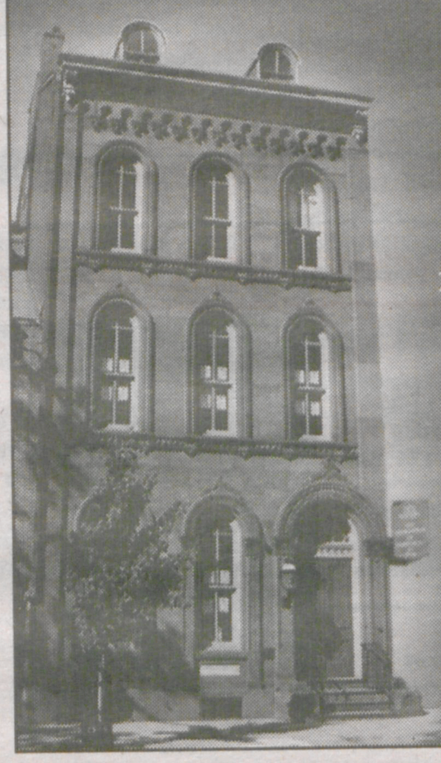

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MOVIE REVIEW

Gay Indy Film Themes Vibrant • Reviewed by Kevyn Knox
www.thecinematheque.com

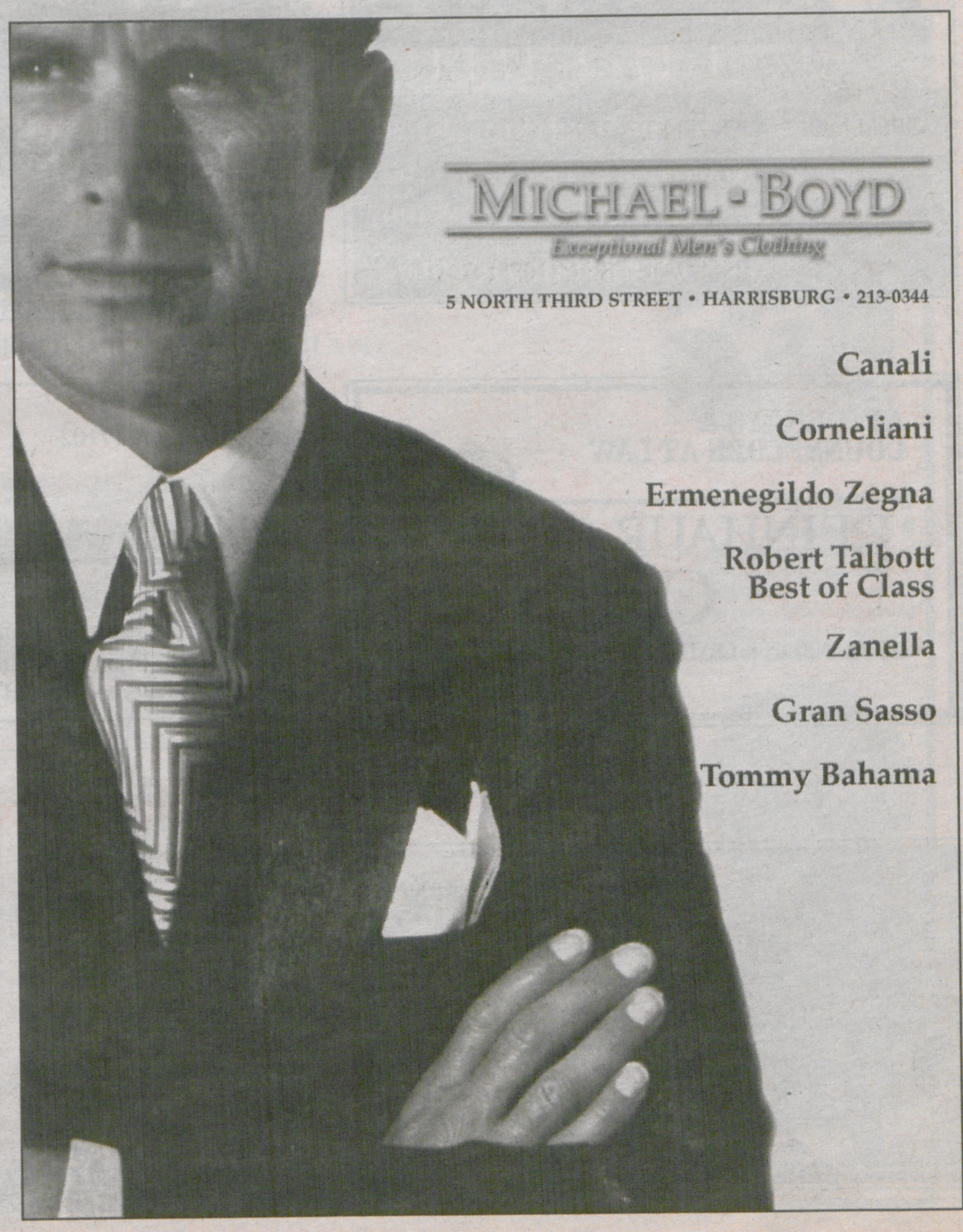
Love & Death on Long Island
(1997, Richard Kwietniowski, UK)
A modern take on Visconti's 1971 film, which in turn was a take on the Thomas Mann original novel. John Hurt is fantastic, both funny and tragic, as the "hero" of this film - a man in love with Jason Priestly (but who wouldn't be). Hurt's uptight English writer accidentally comes across a cheap soft core porn film called "Hotpants College II" and he is instantly obsessed with the young actor that stars in it (Priestly). At times funny, at times hauntingly sad.

L.I.E.
(2001, Michael Cuesta, USA)
The story of an emotionally lost boy who falls prey to the world of teenage prostitution. He also falls prey to Big John, played by Brian Cox. At first kind to the boy, Big John grows more and more
obsessive and controlling. L.I.E. may pander a bit near the end, but overall this is a tightly wound
psychodrama.

Edward II
(1991, Derek Jarman, UK)
A take on Shakespeare with a gay twist (not that the old Bard didn't already have that twist). With minimalist sets and purposely stilted dialogue, Jarman's masterpiece plays like a vacuum of quietude, just on the verge of going
supernova.

p.s. This title is only available on VHS (sorry, no DVD yet). It can be rented at The Bare Wall Gallery on Green Street, Harrisburg

Entre Nous
(1983, Diane Kurys, France)
Isabelle Huppert plays a woman who marries a man in order to escape death in occupied France during WWII. After years of
mundane married life she needs more - and finds that in the form of the beautiful Madeline, played by Miou-Miou (yes, that is her name). Huppert gives (of course) a great performance as the unfulfilled wife. Huppert can say not a word and she shows more true emotion than other actresses who never shut up. The film is worth it just for her
performance alone.



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Money Talks, Hatred (Sorta) Walks

Capleton a Jamaican reggae singer whose music advocates killing and mutilating gays sang at the House of Blues in West Hollywood recently. One of his songs contains the lyrics "Bun Di Chi Chi," Jamaican slang for "burn the queer." Another calls for gays to be shot.

While pressure from activists to cancel Capleton's show at House of Blues was not successful, he did have an impact on the concert's sponsor. Bud Lite has told House of Blues to remove its logos from all advertising connected to the event.

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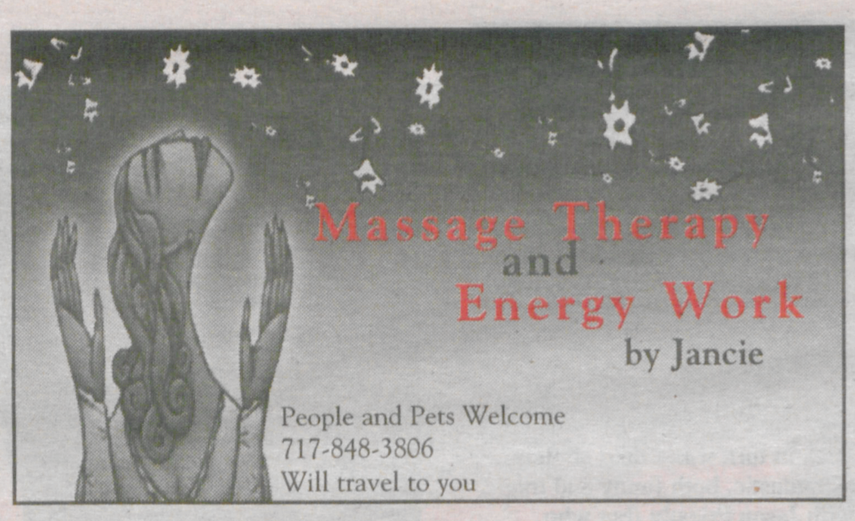
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GOP Brothel Madam?

Marlene (great name for a Madam) Baldwin has been named California Businesswoman of the Year by the National Republican Congressional Committee. There's a hitch. The San Francisco Chronicle reports that she spent "15 years as the most famous brothel madam in San Francisco." Baldwin now sells direct-mail advertising (but we're not sure for what products).

A spokesman for the awarding group explained that the award "recognizes contributions to Republican causes or Republican candidates." AC wonders if candidates receiving her money had to document multiple marriages as proof of protecting that institution from gay intrusions upon its otherwise virginal status. Maybe some of the candidates were her old customers?

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Counselor Welcomes Gay Clients

"I work with people, not labels, diagnoses, or types," says Edward J. Horan, MS, a Licensed Professional Counselor who wants to reach out to the region's gay and lesbian community.

Horan recently relocated his office from New Cumberland to 5006 Lenker Street, Mechanicsburg (717-730-0733, Ext. 7). He's been in private practice in the region since 1996.

He likes to "help everyday people with everyday problems" surrounding how they may act, experience emotions, or how they may think about situations. Besides helping individuals with depression, anxiety, and transitions, Horan is also adept at self-actualization work, career and vocational counseling, relationship counseling, issues of co-dependency, grief and loss, sexual abuse, and spiritual concerns.

Horan holds an MS in Pastoral Counseling from Loyola College, MD, and MA in Theology and a BA in Religion and Religious Education from Catholic University, Washington, DC. Before establishing his private practice, he worked in psychiatric hospitals and counseling centers.

He's worked with inner city children and teenagers, suburban adults and couples, and with American soldiers and their families in Europe. He is available as a speaker on the topics of life, relationships, spirituality and mental health.

With regard to lgbt folks Horan says," Relationships are relationships. Personalities are personalities. Problems are problems regardless of the demographic category, community, culture or group with which we identify or derive our meaning."

helped her craft anti-gay language at this year's Republican National Convention? Her gay son, the oldest of her six adult children, John Schlafly, 53, helped her. "It's no problem," momma Schlafly says. "He supports me in everything I do." What a self-loathing, tortured life he must lead, huh?

Schlafly warned that the Equal Rights Amendment would lead to recognition of gay rights. She's a shrewd political operator hammering out conservative planks into Republican Party platforms over the years. Her St. Louis-based Eagle Forum is an influential conservative group. Her son, an attorney, is one of paid staffers. "I think the traditional definition of marriage has served our society well, and it shouldn't be changed," Schlafly says. He was outed in 1992 by New York gay magazine QW, just after the Republican convention in Houston at which Pat Buchanan declared "America's culture war" and where his mother debated a gay Republican.

"There is no way to control your adult children," Phyllis Schlafly was quoted as saying at the time, in a reaction story in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Sounds like she's found a way.

Supreme Court Justice Likes Orgies?

"I even take the position that sexual orgies eliminate social tensions and ought to be encouraged," said Archconservative U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia September 28 at Harvard University. Not missing a beat, Bill Maher, on HBO's "Real Time" responded, "Apparently, Justice Scalia got into group sex in 2000, when he and a group of four other justices got together and f---ed Al Gore."

Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart Threatens To Kill Gays

A Canadian television station apologized to viewers for a telecast of American evangelist Jimmy Swaggart's television program in which he threatened to kill gays. The threat of violence against gays prompted an investigation by the Canadian Radio Television Commission. His show also appears in the US on stations in all 50 states.

During the program, a rambling sermon by Swaggart - who is trying to rehabilitate himself after an arrest for soliciting a prostitute - the televangelist turned to the subject of gay marriage.

According to a transcript of the program, Swaggart said: "I'm trying to find the correct name for it ... this utter absolute, asinine, idiotic stupidity of men marrying men. ... I've never seen a man in my life I wanted to marry. And I'm gonna be blunt and plain; if one ever looks at me like that, I'm gonna kill him and tell God he died." The remarks were met with applause from his congregation.

Within a few days, Swaggart apologized, explaining his remark was a joke. "It's a humorous statement that doesn't mean anything. You can't lie to God - it's ridiculous," he told The Associated Press. "If it's an insult, I certainly didn't think it was, but if they are offended, then I certainly offer an apology." Where do these idiots come from? Where do we buy a one-way ticket back?

Gay Rabbi Strangled, Dismembered

British courts weighed the fate of a 27-year-old man accused of strangling a gay rabbi and then dismembering the body.

Andreas Hinz, nearly complete with his studies to be a rabbi, was murdered in July 2002. Hinz, who was brought up in Germany and never knew he was Jewish until he was an adult embraced Judaism and had moved to England to become a Liberal rabbi. He was open about his sexuality and often frequented gay clubs in London.

The murder was discovered when workmen complained of a foul smell coming from a garbage bin. Inside the bin they found Hinz's head and limbs. A forensics search of his apartment revealed it had been scrubbed down with bleach in an effort to disguise the crime scene. Nevertheless trace amounts of Hinz's blood were found.

Tracing Hinz's movements backwards on the night he was last seen led police to a gay bar where he was described leaving with a "somewhat unkempt rent boy type" identified as Thomas Hamilton McDowell. Under questioning McDowell admitted killing Hinz. McDowell has pleaded not guilty to murder. His lawyer is arguing that he reacted violently to an unwanted sexual advance.

Gay Film about Bosnia War Brings Hate

"Go West" by Sarajevo director Ahmed Imamovic is about two gay men - a Serb and a Muslim transvestite. They attempt to flee the besieged Bosnian capital and are captured at a checkpoint by Bosnian Serbs. The Serb saves his lover by saying that he is his Muslim fiancée and that they are to be married in his hometown in southern Bosnia.

A co-producer of the film, Bosnian Federation TV, aired several segments in a program meant to defend the film and its contents after it became a target of criticism. The film made headlines when a talk-show host on local Muslim-run Hayat television attacked it as a "mockery" of Muslims sufferings in the 1992-95 war.

The show accused Imamovic of abusing the tragedy of the Bosnian war which saw Muslims, Serbs and Croats fight against each other. That war killed 200,000 people, leaving 2.2 million homeless.

"The main message of our film is that any kind of intolerance leads to misfortune: we cannot hate someone just because they are different," Imamovic said after the show.

Julian Bond Backs Gay Marriage

NAACP Chairman Julian Bond remembers the gay men and lesbians - black and white - who stood shoulder-to-shoulder with him to battle race discrimination.

"I can't say to them, 'Thanks a lot. But when it comes to you, I am drawing a line,'" explains Bond, ticking off a list of gay freedom fighters who include Bayard Rustin, "one of the leading lights," who was a top adviser to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and organized the catalytic 1963 March on Washington.

Other prominent heterosexual African Americans who support full gay marriage rights include Coretta Scott King, Congressman John Lewis, former Democratic presidential candidates Carol Moseley Braun and Al Sharpton, and the Rev. William Sinkford, Unitarian Universalist denomination president.

"I can't see why our society wouldn't welcome the recognition of love and partnership between any two people," says Bond, whose NAACP takes no position on gay marriage but opposes amendments to ban it. "I find it difficult to believe that one group ought to be free of discrimination but another group somehow shouldn't."

Bond adds that he examined arguments against gay marriage and concluded they are wrong. As for some people's religious objections, he replies, "You ought not take your religious beliefs and force them on the larger society. If two men or two women want to go to city hall and marry, then you ought not to stand in the way."

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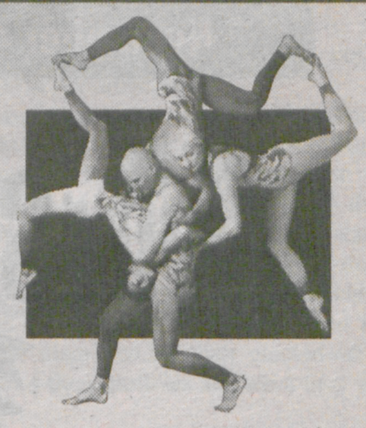

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professional plan.

AC: Why is it important that the community develop an LGBT community center?

BD: First and foremost, various segments of the community itself have identified it as a priority. I and other members of the EGAL committee think that a center will strengthen the community. We feel that bringing the various and diverse segments of the community together will foster cooperation in a community that is too often fractured. We think it will make groups stronger individually and collectively. The Dering Consulting Group also put it well in its proposal when it stated that a center should provide a sense of "home" that is too often missing for the community.

I am very pleased that our efforts have already fostered greater cooperation in the community. Just through sitting down together at the same table, representatives of Common Roads, the Switchboard and SPARC decided to share rented space. They now are all housed in the Common Roads facility at 1300-A North Third Street, which in a way is the beginning of a community center.

AC: Will any and all LGBT organizations be welcome to take space in the facility? What if an organization only wants to use the space, but not rent space?

BD: Any and all LGBT organizations and other groups doing positive work within and for the LGBT community will be welcome to utilize the center. The EGAL committee recognizes that if the center is to be successful, it must be inclusive.

We also anticipate that there are some groups, such as Common Roads and the Switchboard, that may want to rent space within the center for their organization, while others may want to just use meeting rooms and other facilities on an intermittent basis.

I am sure that accommodation will be made for both types of uses.

AC: How can the LGBT community support the successful development of an LGBT community center?

BD: In the coming weeks and months, local LGBT groups and individuals will be contacted by Rankin and Associates for meetings on the center. Participation in this data gathering will be vital to ensure that the center that is actually developed will meet the needs of the community. This will help to determine the type of space needed, its location and the services that will be offered by the center.

It will also be crucial in the development of a financial plan for the center that identifies the funding that will be necessary to start up and run a center and how those funding needs will be met. In the beginning, the greatest need will be the time given for thoughtful participation in this process. Eventually, of course, the community's financial support will also be necessary.

AC: How long will the process of developing a strategic business plan take?

BD: EGAL's contract with the Dering Group calls for it to provide a final report by March 31, 2005.

AC: Why has EGAL become involved in this project?

BD: As the fundraising organization for LGBT groups in the seven county area of Dauphin, Cumberland, Lancaster, York, Lebanon, Adams and Franklin, EGAL thought it was in the best position to get the project started by bringing the various groups together and providing seed money. Eventually, the center will become its own non-profit organization and have its own governing board. EGAL expects that it will continue to be a source of funding for the center even after the center is up and running on its own.

Region's Renaissance Transgender Association Active

We meet every first Saturday of each month in the Harrisburg Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) at 2973 Jefferson St. Harrisburg, PA from 8:30-11:00.

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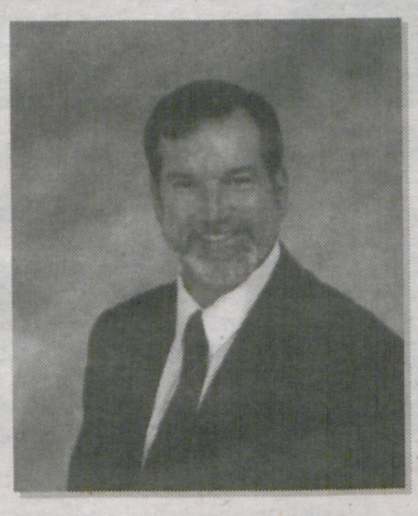

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SPARC Joins

National & State Gay Leaders Form "Equality Federation"

Twenty-five national and state lgbt organizations met recently in Austin, Texas launching an aggressive action plan to boost statewide organizing efforts nationwide. The newly renamed Equality Federation – formerly known as the Federation of Statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Advocacy Organizations – will hire an executive director and build the capacity of member organizations.

"This name change represents an important giant step in the growth of the organization to more completely advocate and defend full civil rights for the lgbt community at the grassroots level," observed Scott Conlan, Executive Director of SPARC, the Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition, an Equality Federation member.

The conference also brought together representatives from seven of the states facing ballot measures that would amend state constitutions to prohibit same-sex couples from marrying and, in many cases, from ever achieving any of the legal protections routinely granted to families, including hospital visitation, parental rights, and access to health insurance.

"The critical importance of strong, well-funded, and well-organized lgbt organizations in every state has never been more evident than in this election year," said Andrea Hildebran, Executive Director of the Kentucky Fairness Alliance and newly elected Equality Federation Co-Chair. "In nearly a dozen states, the religious right is attempting to constitutionalize discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans and their families. These attacks can only be defeated through the efforts and expertise of statewide organizations."

"The overwhelming majority of legal protections achieved by lgbt Americans has occurred and will continue to occur at the state level," said Ian Palmquist, Co-Director of Equality North Carolina and newly elected Federation Co-Chair. "The mandate of the Equality Federation is to ensure that the national movement for lgbt equality is strengthened by the expertise of state organizations and leaders."

The conference was hosted by Equality Federation member Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. Speakers included openly lesbian Houston City Controller, Annise Parker, and Lawrence v. Texas attorney Mitchell Katine with clients John Lawrence and Tyrone Garner.

Equality Federation was founded in 1997 and has grown to include members from 35 states and the District of Columbia. The Federation provides resources, training and support to its members, and is a forum for states to share strategies and expertise. Equality Federation is uniquely situated to act as the national voice of statewide organizing in the LGBT civil rights movement. Website - http://www.federationlgbt.org/.

Arrest Warrant Issued for Reggae Singer;

Hate Not "Free Speech" in Germany Suspected of involvement in a gay-bashing attack, Jamaican police have issued an arrest warrant for Buju Banton. His song lyrics call for the "murder" of gay people.

"Buju Banton does not only call for the murder of gay people in his song Boom Bye Bye, he is also suspected of involvement in a gay-bashing attack in

Kingston, Jamaica," said Philipp Braun, a spokesman for LSVD, a Jamaican gay civil rights organization.

In a recent statement, the Jamaican lesbian and gay group J-FLAG said:

"June 24 we received a call for help from six men who reported to us that Buju Banton, along with a group of men, forced entry at gunpoint to their home, proceeded to beat them, ransacking the home and destroying various items of personal property. Two of the victims were later treated at the University Hospital for injuries sustained in this attack."

Appearances of the reggae performer have been cancelled in North America and now at the Reggae Jam Festival in Saarbruecken, Germany. Concerts in Hamburg and Darmstadt have also been dropped. Organizers of this year's Music of Black Origin (MOBO) awards also have excluded the musicians, saying they do not wish to "publicly promote" such artists.

MTV announced Beenie Man would not perform at a concert in downtown Miami. German sportswear company, Puma, to agree to cancel sponsorship deals with artists, including Buju Banton, if they violate Puma's non-discrimination policy. Senior Puma officials have already warned Banton that he will lose Puma sponsorship immediately if he continues to make homophobic statements. Like my daddy used to say: Don't poop where you eat. Corporations like a minority's money more than dislike something about them.

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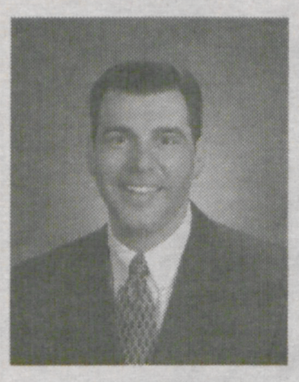

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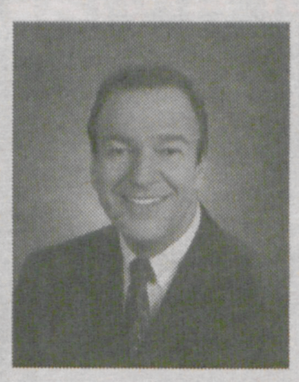

Gays Against Bush Join Historic March Against RNC

Crowd Estimates Vary, High as Half Million

By Winnie McCroy
NYC Correspondent

For the gays and lesbians gathered at Sheridan Square in New York City's Greenwich Village on the morning of August 29 to register their opposition to the Bush Administration, it seemed at first to be just another march for civil rights. But by the time the group merged at 14th Street and Seventh Avenue with the larger contingents organized by United for Peace and Justice, it was clear that this was an historic event.

"The way the Bush Administration conducts itself is not what America stands for, it is not the American dream, which includes equality and civil rights," said Connie Ress, a longtime same-sex marriage rights activist. "That is not what this Administration cares about, and so I am here as everyone is to make sure our voices are heard, that this is unacceptable."

The message was surely heard, as United for Peace and Justice later estimated the turnout to be close to half a million. According to the New York Times, an officer in touch with police command at Madison Square Garden corroborated this figure. At the height of the march, it took an hour for protestors to advance one block up Seventh Avenue in the largely peaceful, two-mile long procession. The temperature reached nearly 90 degrees, but spirits ran high among the gay protestors. The issues at stake ranged from same-sex marriage, adoption and immigration rights to economics and religion.

"The Republicans cannot define what a family is, because a family is defined by love, and nothing else. Proof of that is how many children need to be adopted, and how many traditional families are not at all traditional," said Casimir, a protestor with the Wedding Party who wore a pair of white angel wings.

Some protestors were vocal in their disapproval, while others used art as their medium of expression. For two gay men dressed as nuns, this tactic was quite effective.

"Our mission is to spread joy and universally wipe out the stigmatic guilt of the Christian church," said Sister Mary Juana, who was joined by Sister Mary Peace on Earth, both of the New York City Circle for Radical Faeries' branch of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. "George Bush stands as a symbol of the forces we are opposed to, and so we are posing as gay male nuns in all our outrageous fabulousness because we hope to gather attention for our point of view. We are normal, red-blooded American citizens, we pay our taxes and we want to be heard!"

Even local politicians came out to express their opposition to the staging of the RNC in Madison Square Garden, and the anti-gay policies of the Bush Administration.

"This is costing the city money, and making life miserable with the heightened security. I am here today to show that there are many more of us than there are of them, and that we run the show in New York City, not them," said state senator Thomas K. Duane. "I want to show that the majority of Americans oppose his policies, and that will be reflected in the polls and in those who are disgraced by their elected officials because of these policies and what they do to people."

When the march passed the Garden, protestors responded to the marquee reading, "Thank you, New York," by retorting, "You're not welcome," in a message rich with double entendre. As the crowds moved east on 34th Street, some dispersed to Union Square for a rally, some to the Great Lawn in Central Park for what was a peaceful gathering. Others flocked to the New York Public Library at Bryant Park for events that included a Radical Queer Kiss-In and a mock wedding organized by the ad-hoc group, Queer Fist! While New York City nearly always welcomes tourists, it was clear that the Republican National Convention was one very unwelcome visitor to the Big Apple.

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Central Sighting – Why We Need a Woman in The White House If one in 40 men loves to cross-dress, then at least one president has done Prom Drag in The White House.

Central Sighting – Harrisburg, Capital Region Stonewall Democrats formally organized at the Democratic State Committee Headquarters, Harrisburg. From left, Alternative Central publisher Frank Pizzoli, Dauphin County Democratic Chairman James Young, and CRSD co-chair Ben Turner.

Central Sighting – Harrisburg Don Morabito, executive director of the Democratic State Committee Headquarters addresses Capital Region Stonewall Democrats.

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Events:

Nov 12th 2004: Opening reception (8:00-10:00pm). Hooray for the holidays! Large group show of local and national artists and craftsmen: Modern and contemporary painting, photo, sculpture, jewelry and household wares. Light refreshments. Free.

Nov 19th & 20th 2004: Opening reception (6:00-9:00pm). One of a kind jewelry and fashion apparel trunk show. M.Reed Designs/ Creative Reniassance Fashions and Accessories bedazzle you with unique Celtic Renaissance art wearable works of art. Adorn yourself with handmade pieces of clothing with handmade pieces of clothing, which is an artistic expression of its own. Free

Nov 20th 2004: Fashion show and reception (12:00-7:00pm) Free

Dec 3rd & 17th 2004: "Holly Jolly film festival" (8:00pm) Moviate and Mantis bring you and hour block of vintage holiday fun. $5 at the door.

Dec 10th 2004: Emily Rice Poetry night (8:00-10:00pm) "Poetry in the bedroom" Poets read on sensuality! Observe or participate in the one night only "bedroom" inspired atmosphere. Free (but donations appreciated)

Jan 7th 2005: Opening reception (8:00-10:00pm) Visual artist Janice Snapp. Free

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- **November 19, Friday, 8 pm, Lucie Blue Tremblay in concert**, tickets $15 in advance, $10 at the door, call church for tickets 236-7387
- **December 19, Sunday, 10:30 am**, Children of the church present *Fear Not Factor*, a Christmas musical
- **December 24, Christmas Eve Worship, 7 pm** especially for children, **11 pm** for traditional liturgy
- **December 26, Sunday, Rev. Delores Berry** preaching at the 10:30 am worship and in concert at the 7 pm worship

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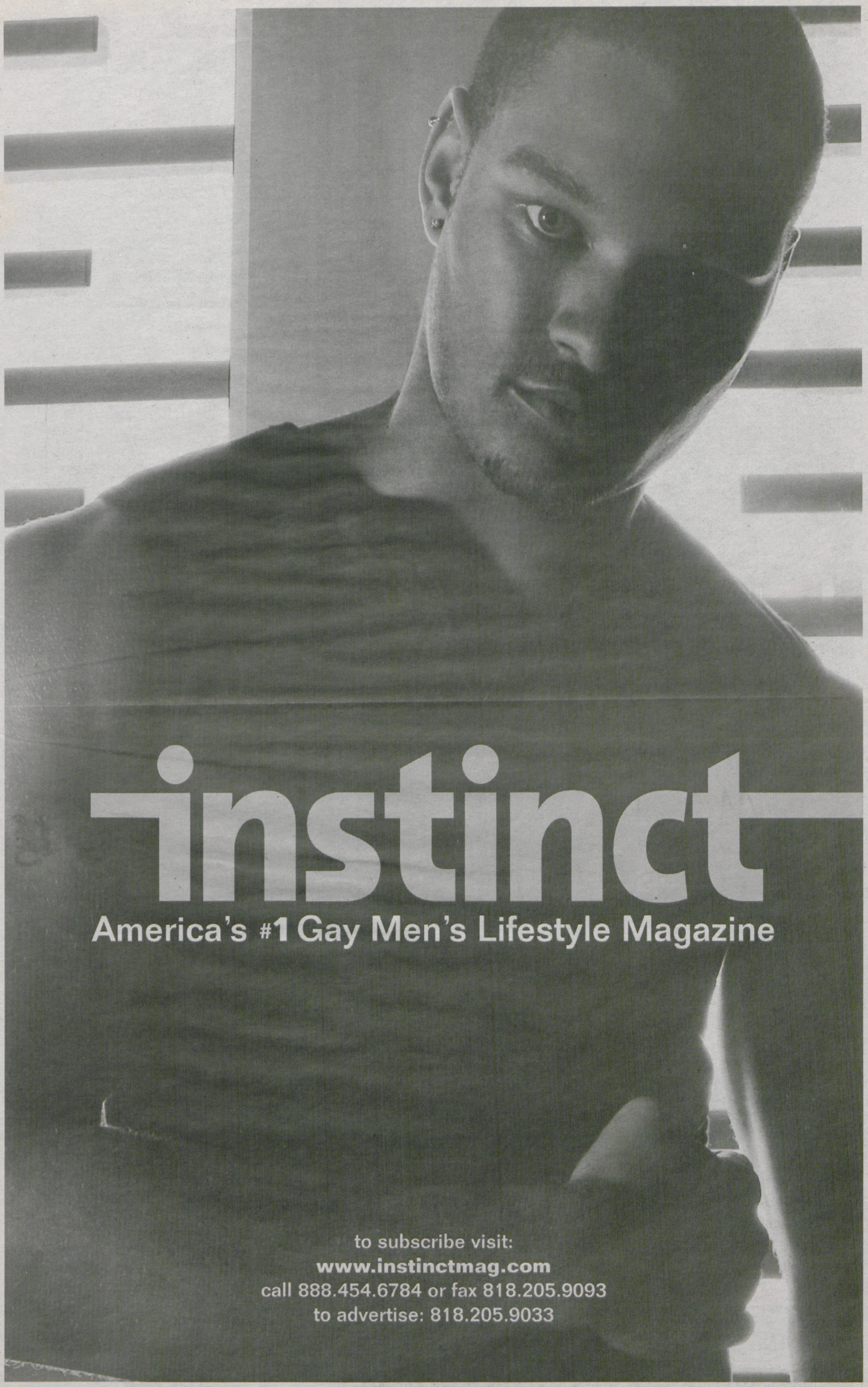
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